



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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We have already seen great benefits in Queensland from the BER program. New halls, libraries and science labs are popping up all over Queensland. Our schools are getting great new resources, communities are gaining valuable public assets and jobs are being created in local areas as a result of this program. We have already seen over 249 projects valued at \$297 million completed in 145 Queensland state schools, including 126 libraries, 112 multipurpose halls and a Land and Sea Management Centre at Innisfail State College—the first project in Australia to be completed under the Science and Language Centres for the 21st Century Secondary Schools element of the BER program.

So far throughout Queensland we have seen 13 official BER openings, with over 20 more scheduled to be held over the next few weeks. It has also created approximately 2,200 jobs to date. We want to make sure Queenslanders are getting the best out of these investments, and that is why we have a BER steering committee of stakeholders which meets regularly to discuss the delivery of the program in Queensland. We also want to ensure that our schools are getting value for money, which is why I directed the department to engage PricewaterhouseCoopers to assess the administration of the program by the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Public Works, and I thank my honourable colleague for the support that his department has provided to our efforts.

The PricewaterhouseCoopers report found that the BER program in Queensland will achieve value for money, that the design standards are based upon current best practice, and that the coordination of the BER program by the Department of Education and Training means that schools are better able to maintain their focus on teaching and learning. I would urge all members of this House to attend BER openings in their local area to inspect these new facilities which are being so eagerly received by teachers, students and their local community.

Shared Services Initiative

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology) (10.16 am): As part of the government's original shared services initiative, a long-term program aimed at consolidating and rationalising whole-of-government finance and human resource systems has been undertaken. This is an ambitious program, and I am pleased to report that substantial progress has been made. Between September 2005 and September 2009, CorpTech implemented 10 SAP finance systems for Queensland government departments including JAG, Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service. One SAP human resource system was also implemented during this period.

CorpTech has continued the good work in 2010, reaching two significant milestones already this year. On Monday, 8 March a new SAP finance system was successfully deployed in the Department of Community Safety. This new system caters for all of Community Safety's financial management and processing. In total, 800 Community Safety users and 120 Shared Service Agency users benefit from the new system. This project was completed on time and under budget thanks to the efforts of the Department of Community Safety, the Shared Service Agency and CorpTech. Further, on Sunday, 14 March the Queensland Health payroll replacement project went live. The implementation of this new SAP payroll system was a critical priority for the Queensland government. Queensland Health, CorpTech and IBM have been working together on the project since 2008. It replaces not only an outdated payroll system but also dozens of ancillary, disparate systems and manual processes.

Last year IBM advised that this is one of the largest and most complex payroll systems ever seen in Australia. IBM said that the planning and implementation of such a comprehensive payroll system would normally be a three- to five-year project. I am pleased to advise that this project was delivered in just 27 months. That is a great achievement given the scope of the project. This system is designed to provide payroll and rostering to around 74,000 Queensland Health employees on a fortnightly basis. Over a 12-month period, this equates to more than 1.9 million payroll deliveries. Employees of Queensland Health were paid this week from the new system. I am advised that any payroll errors—and there have been some—were related to data entry and not to the new system. In other words, the system is working to the scope that it was provided for and the data system entries are the reason that some nurses have, regrettably, not got the correct pay.

I am extremely proud of the outcome of the combined Queensland Health, IBM and DPW project team in delivering such a good outcome in such a complicated environment. My congratulations go to all concerned with this significant achievement. CorpTech is clearly a key player in the Queensland government's Toward Q2 through ICT strategy, which helps deliver improved services at reduced costs for the people of Queensland.

Freight Rail Infrastructure

Hon. RG NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Transport) (10.19 am): The Queensland government is planning for future freight rail needs in South-East Queensland and improving national freight rail connectivity. With freight movement across the state expected to double by the year 2020, it is vital to act now to preserve corridors for future use. The southern freight rail corridor study will identify