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Speech opening new Port Augusta Bridge

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1919 26

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING NEW PORT
AUGUSTA BRIDGE

21.7.72

MR. HOWARD, MY PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

IT GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE TO JOIN WITH YOU, MR. MAYOR,
AND WITH GAVIN KENEALLY, GEOFF VIRGO, KEITH JOHINKE AND THE
PEOPLE OF PORT AUGUSTA IN THE OPENING OF THIS FINE AND
ELEGANT NEW BRIDGE ACROSS THE GULF.

IT HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN BUILT FOR THE MOST PRACTICAL AND
HARDHEADED REASONS.

BUT ITS COMPLETION IS ALSO OF GREAT SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE FOR
THE FUTURE OF PORT AUGUSTA AND THE OTHER GULF TOWNS.

THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT PORT AUGUSTA IS HEADED
FOR A SUBSTANTIAL AND SUSTAINED PERIOD OF GROWTH.

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I THINK THERE ARE THREE REASONS FOR THIS:

- MY GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PRESS AHEAD FULL SPEED WITH
COMPLETION OF THE EYRE HIGHWAY - REGRETTABLY STILL
WITHOUT COMMONWEALTH SUPPORT - WILL LEAD TO A LARGE
INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF TOURIST AND COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC
CROSSING THE CONTINENT, WITH PORT AUGUSTA AS ONE OF THE
MAIN STAGING POINTS;
- THE NEW OIL AND NATURAL GAS DISCOVERIES IN THE FAR NORTH
OPEN UP EXCITING PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE GULF AREA AND THUS MORE JOBS FOR ITS
PEOPLE;
- DEVELOPMENT OF THE FLINDERS RANGES AS A NATIONAL TOURIST
ATTRACTION OF NATURAL BEAUTY WILL MEAN YOUR CITY'S
IMPORTANCE AS THE GATEWAY TO THE NORTH CAN ONLY INCREASE.

EVIDENCE OF THIS IS ALREADY APPARENT, NOT ONLY IN MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS - SUCH AS THIS BRIDGE - BUT ALSO IN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE TOURISM AREA, IN THE CITY.

I THINK THAT WITHIN A SHORT SPACE OF TIME PORT AUGUSTA WILL HAVE FURTHER DEVELOPED INDUSTRIALLY AND WILL HAVE BECOME A MAJOR NEXUS IN STATE AND NATIONAL TRANSPORT SYSTEMS.

DEVELOPMENT OF THIS TYPE IS PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE FOR A CITY SUCH AS THIS BECAUSE THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM IS THAT NOT ONLY DOES IT PROVIDE MORE EMPLOYMENT, IT PROVIDES GREATER DIVERSITY OF EMPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY IN SUCH AREAS AS JOBS FOR WOMEN AND SCHOOL LEAVERS.

MR. VIRGO AND MR. JOHINKE HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN ABOUT THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION DETAILS OF THE NEW BRIDGE.

THERE'S ONE OTHER FACET OF ITS CONSTRUCTION WHICH I THINK DESERVES SPECIAL MENTION, THAT IS THE ATTENTION GIVEN IN ITS PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION TO LANDSCAPING.

A BRIDGE IS A MOST UTILITARIAN OBJECT. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT HAS TO BE UGLY, OR EVEN PURELY FUNCTIONAL: DESIGN IS AS IMPORTANT - OR MORE IMPORTANT - IN BRIDGE BUILDING AS IT IS IN BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND IN MOTOR CARS AND FURNITURE.

THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT DESIGNERS DESERVE THE HIGHEST PRAISE FOR THE SIMPLICITY AND ELEGANCE OF THEIR DESIGN OF THE BRIDGE ITSELF, AND ALSO IN THE ATTENTION THEY HAVE GIVEN TO LANDSCAPING ITS SURROUNDS.

FLOWERING TREES AND SHRUBS AND TALL GUMS WILL NOT ONLY ENHANCE THE VIEW, THEY'LL HELP STABILISE THE EMBANKMENTS AGAINST EROSION AS WELL AS REDUCING TRAFFIC NOISE AND DUST.

SO, I THINK THE PEOPLE OF PORT AUGUSTA HAVE CAUSE TO BE PROUD OF THIS NEW BRIDGE.

IT WILL MAKE LIFE MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE LOCAL PEOPLE AND TRAVELLERS WHO USE IT; ITS DESIGN IS A TRIBUTE TO THE SKILLS OF THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT AND ITS CONSTRUCTION IS A CREDIT TO THE CONTRACTORS.

IT NOW GIVES ME VERY MUCH PLEASURE TO OPEN IT OFFICIALLY.

THANK YOU.