



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Economic Agreement, Queensland and Osaka

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.31 a.m.), by leave: I am pleased to be able to tell Parliament today that I have strengthened Queensland's strong links with Osaka by signing an economic agreement with Governor Knock Yokoyama to develop trade, investment and tourism between the two communities.

I am delighted to have signed this agreement last Friday, 21 August 1998 in Osaka during my visit to Japan, because trade and tourism mean jobs for Queenslanders, especially as almost half of all the Japanese tourist visas to Australia are processed through Osaka. It is Japan's third largest city and the prefecture has a population of 8.7 million people.

This new agreement builds on the well-founded relationships that have developed in the 10 years since the two Governments signed a friendship agreement. Governor Yokoyama travelled to Queensland in June for the 10th anniversary celebrations of that agreement. Now we are mixing business with friendship through this memorandum of understanding of economic exchange between Queensland and Osaka.

I have invited Governor Yokoyama to return to Queensland to progress the economic development and business links between our two communities. We will demonstrate to the Governor and his delegation our strengths in traditional sectors such as commodities, agribusiness and tourism. In addition, we will showcase our emerging product and service sectors in the building, education, training, health and aged care industries.

I have assured the Governor that my Government is committed to both friendship and establishing greater trade, investment and tourism between our communities and I assured him that this Government is committed to multiculturalism. This is an important agreement for the State because 21,000 Queensland jobs depend on trade and tourism with Japan. For the information of members I table a copy of that agreement.
