



Speech by

**Hon. J. ELDER**

**MEMBER FOR CAPALABA**

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Hansard 21 July 1999

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Innovation Strategy**

**Hon. J. P. ELDER** (Capalaba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade) (9.54 a.m.), by leave: In line with the Beattie Government's drive to make Queensland the smart State, the Government last week launched a discussion paper, *Innovation—Queensland's Future*, a strategy aimed at fostering innovation and technology diffusion across all sectors of industry. The goal of the strategy is to increase focus on innovation and technology development so that the key initiatives which stimulate innovation are given a clear definition and direction and are not left to flounder, as was the case under the previous coalition Government.

*Innovation—Queensland's Future* outlines an action plan that will strengthen Queensland's long-term economic competitiveness through initiatives aimed at creating in Queensland a more diversified and sustainable industry base. While innovation has always been a source of competitive advantage in the modern global markets, with shortening product cycles and more rapid application of new technologies, it is one of the core drivers of sustainable long-term economic growth. Those countries, communities, businesses and individuals who are able to innovate and adapt are more likely to succeed. In a purely business sense, it involves the capacity to turn ideas into commercial reality.

Australians on the whole are very good at inventing things, but they are not so good at commercialising them. This is a state of affairs that we have to address. Innovation and commercialisation of our research and ideas will be encouraged and advanced through a range of initiatives within the draft strategy. These include the provision of supporting infrastructure for business, both traditional infrastructure and new infrastructure related to modern technology; broadening the take-up of technology within business; invigorating Queensland's R & D capacity; increasing the education and skills within the community, particularly the work force; creating an environment conducive to innovation, which includes reducing unnecessary impediments to the development of innovation; encouraging innovation in the public sector; and raising the awareness and understanding of the importance of innovation within the broader community.

The 25 proposed initiatives within this action plan will help both the Government and the business community create new jobs and diversify Queensland's economy. The State needs to develop and foster an innovative culture throughout the entire community, one that embraces change, entrepreneurship and new opportunities. *Innovation—Queensland's Future* is not a stand-alone strategy; it will fall within the context of the Premier's vision for an innovative Queensland and complement the initiatives and activities undertaken by other Government departments. The Department of State Development will work cooperatively with all Government agencies to ensure an effective and coordinated approach.

This venture is dependent on the collaborative efforts of both the private and public sectors, with the particular involvement of business and the education and research community essential to its success. I encourage members of the House and the wider community to view the document, which is available on the web site of the Department of State Development, and provide feedback by mid next month before the proposed close of that comment. My thanks in particular go to my Parliamentary Secretary, Stephen Robertson, for his assistance, commitment and work on that strategy.