



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 25 March 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Film and Television Industry

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (3.18 p.m.), by leave: On 15 March, I was proud to share the stage with Greg Coote and Jeff Hayes and congratulate them on choosing to locate TV productions worth at least \$100m in Queensland. I shared that stage with the Attorney-General and Minister for The Arts, Matt Foley. They were announcing their slate for the next 12 months or so. They were effusive in their praise of Queensland as a go-ahead State in which they planned to produce five television series, with much of the production being on the Gold Coast. The five series are Flipper series 4, Amazon, The Lost World, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Beastmaster.

It is estimated that these productions will create more than 2,000 jobs in Queensland. In addition, Mr Coote and Mr Hayes said that they "try whenever possible to use the fabulous facilities of the Warner Roadshow Movie World Studios and the can-do approach that Queenslanders bring to the table".

This morning in question time, a National Party member representing the Gold Coast sought to denigrate Mr Coote and Mr Hayes by suggesting that the filming of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, the Lost World and Flipper had started in 1998. The announcement on 15 March related to television series. All those familiar with the television industry would know that a pilot is not a series. Indeed, many pilots do not become television series.

The production of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde that the member for Broadwater referred to was a pilot and not the series that is due to comprise 22 episodes. The production of the Lost World that the member for Broadwater referred to was a pilot and not the series that is due to start on 26 April this year. The production of Flipper that the member for Broadwater referred to as commencing on 8 May 1998 was series 3, not series 4 which is confirmed for production in 1999.

I did not mislead the Parliament as the member alleged. It was the member for Broadwater who, in his desperation to score a cheap political point at the expense of the film industry, misled the House. The member for Broadwater should apologise immediately to Greg Coote and Jeff Hayes.
