



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 25 August 1999

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Industrial Relations; Film and Television Industry

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.42 a.m.), by leave: I am extremely pleased to inform the House that Queensland's industrial relations climate is extremely healthy and working well. We said we would introduce fair and balanced legislation, and the results speak for themselves. The latest industrial disputes statistics published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that Queensland continues to outperform the national average when it comes to the number of working days lost.

There were only 47 working days lost for every thousand employees in Queensland in the 12 months ending in May this year compared with a national average of 62. In that 12-month period, Queensland accounted for only 14% of working days lost nationally through industrial disputes, which was significantly lower than its employment share of nearly 19%. In contrast, New South Wales had a rate of 38.6% compared with its share of 33.4% and Victoria had a rate of 29.4% compared with its share of 24.9%. This sort of climate helps generate more jobs for Queenslanders.

Another area which is crucial to job creation is the film and television industry. The Queensland Government welcomes a decision by the Australian Film Commission that Australian co-producers be allowed to source finance from any country. This represents an enlightened and informed approach to the marrying of cultural and financial imperatives. But I warn Parliament and the public that the commission could severely damage our industry if it makes changes to guidelines affecting co-production program formats. The proposed changes would exclude long-running television series from the co-production program. These productions provide opportunities for Australian producers, directors, writers, actors and crew to earn a regular and reliable living in the industry in Queensland.

Coote/Hayes Production Services are the Australian co-producers of television series *Lost World* and *Beastmaster* and say about 300 Australians are employed on these series at the moment. *Beastmaster* is an official Australia/Canadian co-production and complies with the co-production guidelines. But Coote/Hayes have warned that if the commission changes the guidelines these series would be excluded from the co-production program, with the risk that shows like these would not be shot in Australia. The commission made no decision on the proposed changes last week. I urge it to take the changes off the agenda immediately, because its proposals would cost Queensland and this industry in Queensland hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in foreign investment.

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