



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 9 November 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Re-enactment of Duyfken Expedition

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.36 a.m.), by leave: I am happy to announce today that Queensland will be at the centre of an expedition designed to capture the imagination of tourists in the Olympic year and change the way in which Australians view the early modern history of this country. Today I can give members the first details of the re-enactment next year by a \$3.7m replica of the voyage to Australia in 1606 of the Dutch trading ship the Duyfken—the Little Dove.

The 2000 Duyfken expedition will focus on what is the first recorded European voyage to Australia nearly 400 years ago when Captain Willem Janszoon took the Duyfken to the Pennefather River in the Gulf of Carpentaria near Weipa. As the result of an agreement secured by the Queensland Government, the replica will then embark on a six month exhibition tour of Queensland ports. I am delighted that the State Government has secured a six month exhibition tour of Queensland ports.

Duyfken will arrive at the Pennefather River on Saturday, 15 July 2000. That will be experienced by millions of people all over Australia and the world through a documentary and through news coverage by Duyfken Foundation sponsors Network Seven and News Limited. The likely dates of her voyage along the Queensland coast are: Weipa from 18 to 24 July, Aurukun on 27 July, Mapoon on 30 July, Thursday Island on 2 and 3 August, Cooktown from 11 to 17 August, Cairns from 18 to 27 August, Townsville from 1 to 10 September, Mackay from 15 to 24 September, Hervey Bay from 13 to 22 October, Mooloolaba from 25 to 29 October, Redcliffe from 31 October to 9 November, Brisbane from 10 November to 1 December and the Gold Coast from 3 to 10 December. All this will help persuade even more tourists to visit Queensland as well as Sydney in the Olympic year.

The Duyfken put Queensland on European maps for the first time and now the replica will put us on the tourist map for Europeans in the Olympic year. I am particularly pleased that schoolchildren from all over Queensland will be able to visit the ship on special school tours. All this has been made possible by the Queensland Government, which enabled the foundation to complete the vessel and begin planning for the expedition by investing \$500,000 to become a major partner in the Duyfken 1606 Replica Foundation. The Duyfken 1606 Replica Foundation will put the ship on exhibition at each port, and Queenslanders will be encouraged to come aboard and experience the ship for themselves.

The Duyfken is a three-masted ship, 24 metres long from stem to stern, which weighs about 100 tonnes. She has been described by Dutch historians as the most accurate replica of a Dutch "Age of Discovery" ship ever built. Captain Janszoon produced the first ever chart of the Australian coastline when he mapped a part of the Gulf of Carpentaria coastline near Weipa on Cape York Peninsula. Australians can forget about Botany Bay and the expeditions of Captain Cook and others; this was the first visit by a European to this country. Captain Janszoon's crew were the first Europeans to set foot on Australian soil and it was the first time in recorded history that Aboriginal Australians met European people from across the seas. In other words, Queensland was the first part of Australia to be discovered by Europeans; not New South Wales, but Queensland. We should do something about rewriting our history books to reflect this. I look forward to the ceremony next year when the Duyfken anchors at the Pennefather River and her crew row ashore to meet once again the local Aboriginal people in a gesture of reconciliation spanning almost 400 years.

Later today at the Queensland Museum theatre, I will be announcing publicly—in addition to this ministerial statement—the formal visit. Rinze Brandsma, the Chairman of the Duyfken Foundation, will be there. He will make a significant address. We will also have Mr Ron Ngalematta, the Chairman of the Napranum Community Council. He will speak on behalf of the Weipa people and the traditional people of the Western Cape. This is an exciting opportunity for this State to promote Queensland tourism, particularly in Europe but also around the world.
