



Speech by

**Mr S. ROBERTSON**

**MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK**

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Hansard 14 September 1999

**QUEENSLAND INNOVATION STRATEGY**

**Mr ROBERTSON** (Sunnybank—ALP) (10.25 a.m.): Queensland's innovation strategy, *Innovation Queensland's Future*, was made available for public comment on 13 July and submissions closed on 31 August. At that time 130 external submissions had been received, nearly all the feedback being supportive of the strategy and initiatives. Responses have been received from industry, local government, research institutions, universities and cooperative research centres.

Some of the recurring themes and comments have been a strong support for the Centres of Excellence Incentive Scheme; a great deal of comment on the Innovation Start-up Scheme, a pre seed funding initiative; support for a whole-of-Government intellectual property policy; high expectations for the Queensland Innovation Council; and endorsement of the emphasis on the commercialisation of new ideas. The encouraging aspect has been the support that the document has received from industry associations, such as the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The QCCI said—

"The QCCI congratulates the Queensland Government and the Department of State Development on the thorough review of innovation activities in Queensland resulting in the 'Innovation— Queensland's Future' discussion paper. The discussion paper is testament that Queensland understands the value of an innovation culture and that future industry and economic growth will become increasingly dependent on innovation systems."

Last year when the Beattie Government took office it was of great concern to us that initiatives in innovation and technology had been left to languish by the previous Minister. This document not only seeks to redress the time wasted under three years of coalition apathy, but also plots the path for Queensland's future prosperity.

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