



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

---

Hansard 16 March 2000

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Biotechnology Industries

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.40 a.m.), by leave: I am proud that my Government has been aggressive and imaginative in selling Queensland overseas as the Smart State. This strategy and the hard work of Ministers has resulted in massive investment in Queensland and thousands of new jobs for Queenslanders. On Monday afternoon, I will be seeking more investment and more jobs when I travel to the United States on behalf of Queensland.

Among my many objectives will be marketing Queensland as the Smart State in biotechnology because this is the revolution that will bring thousands of long-term, new-age jobs to Queensland. I will be signing a ground-breaking agreement with the world's leading research and museum complex, the Smithsonian Institution, which will signal a new age for Queensland.

Queensland is a leading sponsor of BIO-2000, the world's largest biotechnology conference and exhibition, where the State's biotechnology expertise and the vast potential of its biodiversity will be on display. For five days in Boston, more than 750 international exhibitors, such as research organisations, entrepreneurs, specialist lawyers, botanists and Governments, will be selling what they have to offer to the biotechnology world.

We will be fighting with them to capture the interest and business of as many of the 6,000 industry representatives as possible. The prize will be investment dollars, the development of this fledgling industry and future jobs. We are up against the might of national Governments such as Canada, France and Switzerland, as well as world centres such as New York and Hong Kong, together with groups such as the Japan Bioindustry Association and the Israel Export Institute.

We are not alone as the Smart State. From the United States, Iowa is also marketing itself as the Smart State. But when I checked on the Internet yesterday, Queensland was the only Australian State Government listed as an exhibitor. We are leading the way in Australia. Eight Queensland organisations will be exhibiting on the Queensland stand and I will be leading more than 40 Queensland biotechnology industry representatives at this conference.

In Washington the new memorandum of understanding that I will sign with the Smithsonian Institution will be a watershed for Queensland that will truly mark the end of how Queensland was perceived in the 20th century and how we will be perceived in the new millennium. The joint projects which are expected to flow from this new agreement will enhance Queensland's position as the Smart State. The future will have us plugged into the worldwide web and increasingly gaining from our new economy of services, innovation and knowledge-based industries.

---