



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 1 June 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Native Title; Queensland Day Celebrations

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (11.59 a.m.), by leave: I understand that Queensland's alternative State provisions in the native title arena will be tabled in Federal Parliament today, although I have yet to receive formal confirmation. Apparently all 13 parts of the scheme have been determined by the Attorney-General as complying with the Federal Native Title Act. Members should not be surprised by this. It has been clear from the start that the Queensland regime set well above the minimum conditions established by the Howard/Harradine amendments. It is a fair and balanced scheme developed after intensive consultation that deserves the support of all Queenslanders and all senators.

What is surprising is that it has taken 18 months since our legislation was passed in this House for this decision to be made. Daryl Williams acknowledged today that his Federal Act is unworkable and that there is a need for State schemes. Why, then, has he taken so long to process the Queensland regime? There have been 500 minor amendments arising from Commonwealth nitpicking, but the original form of the scheme remains absolutely unchanged. The Howard/Harradine amendments have not fixed the native title impasse; they have exacerbated it.

This is a fair and balanced model which should be followed by other States. It should become the model for Australia. If our model is rejected by the Senate, everyone loses. Mining exploration will disappear offshore and indigenous communities will miss out. I look forward to talking to the various senators and leaders of different parties to ensure that our regime is supported.

Today I also invite Queenslanders to a 10 day long birthday celebration. 6 June is Queensland Day, our official celebration of the day we became a State in 1859. I table a copy of the program for the information of the House, and I ask for the rest of my comments to be incorporated in Hansard.

Leave granted.

But we have arranged events and activities over a 10-day period throughout the State to highlight the cultural and historical diversity and development of Queensland—and to honour the achievements of our people.

I think about it as celebrating everything that makes us proud to be Queenslanders and lucky to live in this great State.

It's a time when Queenslanders can come together to appreciate and understand our heritage—to think about the characters, places and events that have helped shape our unique culture.

Events start tomorrow with Celebrating Queensland Art at the Riverside Centre, Barefoot in the Park for the under eights in New Farm Park, Queensland Arthritis Foundation Annual Charity Lunch, and the B105 Morning Crew Suburb Party at Marchant Park, Chermside.

At Parliament House on Saturday evening Governor Major-General Peter Arnison will announce the Queenslander of the Year and I will announce the Young Queenslander of the Year.

On Queensland Day itself I will be joined by one of Australia's foremost and entertaining scientists, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, to talk about Queensland's bright future as the Smart State.

And celebrations go right through to June 11 with a massive Picnic in the Park at the City Botanic Gardens.
