



Speech by

BARBARA STONE

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

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INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR BIOSCIENCE

Ms STONE (Springwood—ALP) (7.23 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to speak about a place that deals with projects that many of us think are only dreams. Let me tell members: those dreams are getting closer and closer to reality and they are happening on our back door.

I was delighted to get an invitation from my colleague the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy to visit the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland. I thank the minister for giving me this opportunity. As a member of his legislative committee, I found the visit to the centre fascinating.

As I said before, this institute is dealing on a day-to-day basis with projects many of us believe are dreams. They are truly representative of the Smart State. For years, other cities in Australia have been at the forefront of delivering on science initiatives. To those cities I say: move over, Queensland is fast becoming the Smart State due to the hard work and commitment not only of the Beattie Labor government but also of our hardworking and committed men and women scientists.

The Institute for Molecular Bioscience is committed to excellence in research and postgraduate teaching in biology, chemistry and computing. Over the next three years the centre plans to grow from 200 to over 450 research scientists. These scientists will come from various disciplines, including gene discovery and early stage drug development.

This is a big plus for the people who have chosen science as their career. It is also a big plus for the community to have the skills and expertise of these scientists in our state. The centre is also looking forward to increasing its graduate student population from 50 to over 100. These graduates will be offered expertise in intellectual property, ethics and public policy and other technology management areas as well as research training in their selected discipline. I would say this is a Smart State.

The Institute for Molecular Bioscience is committed to working collaboratively with the hospitals and medical research institutes to better understand the genetic and biochemical bases of disease. This can only be described as a positive for our nation's health.

Along with all this fascinating and smart medical research comes the need for mathematicians and computer scientists to develop new programs that can handle biological information. The centre is committed to developing future designs of computers and information systems to take on these exciting ventures.

The Institute of Molecular Bioscience will be situated in a research complex currently being constructed at the University of Queensland in partnership with the CSIRO. The \$105 million complex is possible due to the funds raised by the University of Queensland, the Commonwealth government Federation Fund, a private benefactor and, of course, the Queensland state government. The institute will also receive \$77.5 million in operational funding over the next 10 years.

This is government once again demonstrating its commitment to the Smart State by giving core operational funding to the institute. I commend the centre on its innovation and commitment to Queensland.
