



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 13 September 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 a.m.), by leave: Recently I had the opportunity to tour and open a facility that combines two of my government's policy passions—Smart State and job creation. With Health Minister Wendy Edmond and Federal Health Minister Michael Wooldridge, I opened the new Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research on 30 August. The centre has the dual task of creating cures and creating jobs. It is part of Queensland's cutting-edge, world-class biotechnology research facilities. Paul Lucas, the Minister for Innovation, was also present.

If one adds together the QIMR extension and the presence of new companies coming to Australia like EntreMed, which is a major United States biotechnology company that wants to establish a close working relationship with Queensland biotechnology companies and academic institutions, and one adds to that the announcement of the commercialisation centre, which the Minister for State Development and I announced recently, we are making significant advances in the area of biotechnology and innovation. I congratulate both the Minister for State Development and the Minister for Innovation for the significant advances that they have been making in cooperation with my department and myself. This is the future of Queensland.

In light of the time, I seek to incorporate the rest of my ministerial statements in *Hansard*, because obviously we lost a day yesterday.

Leave granted.

It will provide a unique opportunity in Australia to manufacture cancer treatments to the highest possible standard and then test them on patients in the same building.

Conducting trials on humans in a one-stop 'bench to bedside' facility will put QIMR in a much better bargaining position with pharmaceutical companies to commercialise their discoveries. There are now 460 scientists working at QIMR, and that is expected to grow to 800 in coming years. The \$60 million dollar centre has been funded jointly by the Queensland government, the federal government and an anonymous American philanthropist. After an extensive worldwide search of the credentials of centres specialising in cancer research the philanthropist came forward with a \$20 million donation to help build this centre. That shows the high international regard for QIMR and its research teams.

The Queensland government and the federal government have each contributed a further \$20 million to the project. QIMR is a linchpin in Queensland's drive to be the Smart State and has also been successful in attracting a number of grants from the Washington DC based National Institutes of Health. It has been a great time for the Smart State and health. We have now opened two of three major facilities planned for the short term—the Centre for Biomolecular Science and Drug Discovery at Griffith University on the Gold Coast, the QIMR, and the third is to be the Institute for Molecular Bioscience at the University of Queensland.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the improvement to Queensland's health services is extensive. Last weekend Health Minister Wendy Edmond and I were on hand for the official opening of Brisbane's newest private hospital, Holy Spirit Northside. The \$82 million, 162-bed Holy Spirit Northside is collocated with the Prince Charles Hospital at Chermside and will employ almost 500 staff. Some of the technologies used at the hospital are little short of amazing. Surgeons and specialists can control some of the equipment used in operations by voice command. They can also perform life saving heart treatment such as the insertion of pacemakers and coronary stents as a day-stay procedure. This is a smart hospital for the Smart State.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER ON ENTREMED AT QIMR OPENING

Mr Speaker, the Smart State success story continues.

A major United States biotechnology company wants to establish a close working relationship with Queensland biotechnology companies and academic institutions.

EntreMed, Inc, a \$US250 million biotechnology company from Maryland employs 120 scientists and staff to develop cancer-fighting drugs.

On 29 August, I welcomed EntreMed founder, Chairman and CEO, Dr John Holaday, and the company's vice-president, corporate development, Neil Campbell, to Queensland.

They were here for business—their own, of course, and the launching of the new Comprehensive Cancer Research Centre at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research on August 30.

And they took the time to catch some of the excitement of the Goodwill Games.

EntreMed focuses on developing angiogenesis inhibitors—products that block the growth of unwanted blood vessel networks and inhibit the growth and spread of disease.

Dr Holaday is also chairman of the Maryland Bioscience Alliance, which represents about 300 other biotechnology companies, and I had the pleasure of meeting him in San Diego at BIO2001.

The Department of State Development will work with him to investigate partnerships and investment opportunities with Queensland organisations.

The company's strategy is to accelerate development of its core technologies through collaborations and sponsored research programs with university medical departments, research companies and government laboratories.

With this in mind, the State Government has organised the company's itinerary to incorporate visits to all the major research institutes, universities and a range of biotech companies.

The Minister for Innovation and Information Economy, and Tom Barton, Minister for State Development, will be working to ensure we provide whatever help is necessary.

Dr Holaday said his company was investigating:

- Short-term clinical trial opportunities

- Opportunities for university, institutional and commercial collaboration

- Contract manufacturing possibilities

- Longer-term opportunities to establish drug development and manufacturing operations.

He has said EntreMed wants to establish a close working relationship with Queensland biotechnology companies and academic institutions to explore new technologies that have the potential to enhance patient care in cancer, blindness and cardiovascular diseases.

He acknowledged the growth of biotechnology in Queensland—encouraged by our Government—is creating a climate that will help to bring new drugs to people and to commercialisation.

I assured Dr Holaday of my Government's commitment to an ongoing relationship with Maryland's bioscience community.

And I pointed out our very competitive business costs involved in manufacturing.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER ON COMMERCIALISATION CENTRE

Mr Speaker, too many Australian discoveries have been commercialised overseas, with all the profits and jobs being lost to Australia.

My Government is determined to do everything we can to ensure the jobs and profits that flow from our creative endeavours stay in Australia.

In Queensland, we are creating centres of excellence for biotechnology research and we must do everything we can to ensure that we make the most of the discoveries that will flow from all that research.

We have decided to establish an Australian Institute of Commercialisation to take discoveries, concepts and inventions from the test tube and the drawing board to the cash register.

State Development Minister Tom Barton and I announced the creation of this national Institute on 23 August.

The government will set up this multi-million dollar Institute to provide national leadership in commercialising concepts and discoveries from right across the industrial spectrum.

It will draw together national and international expertise, will research best practice models, and provide direct advice to all participating research bodies across Australia.

The facility will work in collaboration with universities, Australia's major research organisation the CSIRO, other leading research institutes and industry associations.

This institute will not be bound by state borders but will be a truly national centre to push not only Queensland ideas but Australian initiatives on to the market.

It will be the nerve centre of a national network.

In partnership with public and private sectors, it will generate new economic growth for the Nation and new jobs for the State.

The goal will be to enhance the competitive position of all Australian industry sectors and firms through the rapid diffusion and uptake of research.

This will be achieved through a number of measures including:

- Fostering and sponsoring research.

- Education and training.

- Brokerage and matching business with suitable opportunities.

- Mentoring of individual researchers and research organisation through the commercialisation process.

- Direct linkages with pool development funds and venture capital organisations.

The Institute will be housed at the Queensland Clunies Ross Centre at Brisbane Technology Park at Eight Mile Plains.

The proximity of the Queensland Manufacturing Institute facilities at Brisbane Technology Park will be an important bonus.

The Institute will also provide access to a range of professional expertise including:

Intellectual property management.
Product and process development.
Financial broking.
And management consulting.
