



Speech by

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STATE MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ICT INDUSTRY

Mrs LAVARCH (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.22 a.m.): This morning I want to talk about the growth in the ICT industry in Queensland and emphasise the Beattie government's commitment to the information and communication technology industry. There is no doubt the ICT industry is flourishing, creating new businesses, more jobs and more wealth for Queenslanders. Even a brief look at this industry paints a picture of growth and prosperity.

I congratulate the ICT industry on its remarkable achievements and its experience in vibrant export growth, particularly in regard to Queensland produced ICT equipment. These exports have grown at a whopping 18 per cent per annum since 1992-93 compared with only a five per cent increase across the rest of Australia. This is fantastic growth and proof that the ICT industry is enhancing the Smart State's international reputation as a producer for high-technology, high-quality goods.

In dollar terms, Smart State produced ICT equipment exports totalled \$87 million in 2003—a gigantic increase on the \$17 million recorded a decade earlier. This is an increase of more than 400 per cent in 10 years. The Smart State is powering ahead in the high-tech export stakes. In the 2001-02 we exported \$850 million in ICT products and services—an increase of 16 per cent in the past two years. Total sales for 2001-02 were valued at more than \$14.5 billion—an increase of nine per cent since 1999-2000.

Growth like this translates into more jobs for Queenslanders. Our flourishing ICT industry now comprises nearly 4,000 businesses, employing the full-time equivalent of 56,200 people. Things are only going to get better.

Time expired.