



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 18 March 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Trade Mission

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.17 a.m.): On Monday I will be leaving on a 10-day trade and investment mission to Israel and Europe. With one in every four Queensland regional jobs depending on trade, it is essential that we increase our exports so that we can create more jobs. The itinerary I have arranged contains more than 30 functions, including major business receptions in Tel Aviv, London and Ireland and meetings with government and business leaders. There are also some meetings I will attend while on the continent.

This week I had the opportunity of meeting, along with other members of this House, a Mr Tom Kitt, the Minister of State for Development Cooperation and Human Rights, from Ireland and he, in partnership with Queensland, will be advancing trade and other mutual opportunities for us while we are in Ireland. I seek leave to have the rest of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Business leaders have been urging me for some time to increase the strength of our links with Israel because they believe there are very good opportunities for Queensland companies in several areas.

One of the highlights will be a visit to the Agricultural Research Organisation near Tel-Aviv which is heavily involved in research on agriculture in arid conditions and on marginal soils.

Queensland Police has consulted with Federal agencies and has advised that the threat level for the visit to Israel is high and that I should be accompanied by two police officers.

In the UK I will be supporting the work of Queensland companies which are seeking to increase their exports and to publicise Queensland products and tourism.

We have many links with Ireland which has proved itself to be the smart country in Europe.

Queensland became only the second government to enter into a whole-of government agreement with Ireland when, on a previous mission, I signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Economic Co-operation.

We have a similar population and both focus on smart economic development particularly in information and communication technology, biotechnology, health infrastructure, and export development.

I will be holding further talks with Irish Ministers to develop results from this relationship.

I have also targeted specific objectives on the Continent.