



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 20 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Overseas visit

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 a.m.): If I could move on, in relation to trade, with one in four jobs in our regions depending on exports, it is essential for the Queensland government to do everything it can to encourage companies to export and to promote Queensland's Smart State expertise abroad.

I have recently, as you know, undertaken a trade and investment mission. I led it to Israel, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Europe between 22 March and 3 April and highlighted the achievements of Queensland companies already exporting and drew the attention of foreign government and business leaders to the capability of Queensland companies.

I table for the information of the House two copies of the detailed report that I am providing to all members and the community about the trade and investment mission. Can I advise the House that I intend to make 2004 'Export Year' and to try and consolidate not only traditional markets but find new markets as well because of the number of jobs this means for Queenslanders. Because of time, I seek to incorporate the rest of my ministerial statement for the information of all members.

Mr SPEAKER: Leave granted.

In Israel, I met Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, as well as his deputy and Minister for Trade and Industry Ehud Olmert and the Minister for Finance and former Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

An agreement I witnessed between that country's Agricultural Research Organisation and the University of Queensland's Centre for Native Floriculture has the potential to increase native flower and foliage exports from \$9 million to \$60 million a year over the next decade and double the number of jobs in the industry to 400.

I witnessed a joint venture agreement for Queensland-owned company The Cavalier Corporation to build homes in Israel.

The Queensland Corporate Research Centre of worldwide software solutions company, SAP, has made a significant contribution to SAP Portals in Israel—the primary IT solutions provider for the Israeli Government. This is another example of the Smart State in action, delivering not just locally but internationally.

I met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Ehud Olmert; Minister for Finance and former Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu; and the chair of the Knesset's Israel-Australia Parliamentary Friendship League, Isaac Herzog.

In Israel, people went out of their way to thank the trade and investment mission for proceeding, despite a heightened security alert and international warnings against travel to Israel.

In London I held a reception for government and business leaders and helped Queensland companies launch products.

Sunshine Coast sugar technologist Graeme Brewer has developed an innovative range of fruit, vegetable and salad nutritional supplements in handy sachets under the name of Calthapharm.

Medihoney, a subsidiary of Capilano Honey, has released the findings of a hospital study that shows their special honey inhibits the golden staph superbug. It also cites research showing Medihoney helps heal wounds and provides relief from a range of skin conditions.

Water Worldwide launched its bottled water and managing director Perry Grewar joined me on a visit to "super premium" department store Harvey Nichols, of "Ab Fab" fame, which agreed to stock his Outback spring water.

Bundaberg Brewed Drinks launched its brewed soft drinks in Britain's Costco supermarket chain.

I launched a Study Queensland website offering information designed to meet the needs of UK students looking for a destination for their Gap Year break.

In London I also witnessed the signing of a letter of intent between Granada Television and Cutting Edge which has beaten the best of Britain's post-production companies to win a \$600,000 contract to compile the raw footage and story-line for the TV giant's latest reality series.

I also attended meetings and functions with Xstrata, Ingeus, HOK Sport, Weathered Howe, MDA and the United Kingdom Sailing Academy.

In Ireland, I visited the Aughinish Alumina refinery, where Worley are employing about 100 Queenslanders in a major expansion and the Luas light rail development where SKM have a contract creating further jobs for Queenslanders.

In Vienna I announced that yet another aviation company, Frequentis, is establishing its Australasian regional headquarters in the Smart State. Frequentis maintains and develops communication and information systems for air traffic control management and public safety and transport.

In France I visited European Aeronautical Defence and Space, already a part of Queensland's aviation hub through Australian Aerospace, to talk about the possibility of new opportunities in Queensland.

In all of the countries, whenever it was appropriate, I publicised AusBiotech 2004 that is being held in Queensland in November and invited people to attend the conference. The British Science Minister is due to lead a British delegation to the conference and the Israeli Government will also be represented.