



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 20 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

HOK Sport

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.53 a.m.): I announced last week that the Queensland office of HOK Sport + Venue + Event has secured a significant contract as sports architect adviser for the main stadium for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. The contract is with the National Stadium Company, the consortium which is financing construction and operating the \$400 million Beijing National stadium. This is great news for a Queensland firm which will do the substantive work from its Queensland office. The contract is also a strategic win for Queensland as this work on the Beijing Olympics will give global exposure to Queensland knowledge-intensive industries. HOK Sport was the firm responsible for our new Suncorp Stadium, which it designed in association with local firm PDT Architects. HOK Sport is also designing the redevelopment of the Wembley Stadium in London, the upgrade of the centre court for Wimbledon, which I inspected on my trade mission last month, and the complete rebuild of the Ascot Racecourse in the United Kingdom. I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

HOK Sport worked with the National Stadium Company throughout the tender process in 2003, and this success follows four years of planning work in Beijing by a team led by HOK senior principal, Paul Henry.

The contract will involve HOK Sport providing sports specialist architectural advice to the National Stadium Company over the next year to ensure that the stadium design meets world's best practice.

Mr Speaker, the success of Queensland companies like HOK Sport in securing contracts in China, is also a result of hard work by the staff of the Queensland Government Trade and Investment Office in Shanghai and Trade and International Operations, as well as our friends at Austrade.

The Queensland Government Trade and Investment Office Shanghai continues to develop important connections in China so that Queensland companies can benefit from the booming Chinese economy.

My Government has consistently supported companies like HOK to create new business opportunities in China through targeted trade and investment missions and by providing specialists in market support.

Mr Speaker, HOK Sport's success in China is further evidence that Queensland's exporters are continuing to make significant inroads into world markets.

We will continue to work in partnership with Queensland companies to ensure that this success continues.