



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 22 April 2004

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Virgin Blue/Alteon Flight Training Centre

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 a.m.): Later today I will be officially opening the Virgin Blue/Alteon flight training centre at Brisbane airport. This is a significant milestone for Queensland and I feel personally very pleased with this achievement because of the role that the government has played in bringing it about. I thank the relevant ministers.

It is one of the many instances where an overseas trade mission has again paid dividends for Queensland. In March 2001, I visited the Flight Safety Boeing International simulator and training facility in California. The purpose of the visit to the facility was specifically to promote the attractions and advantages of building a training centre right here in Brisbane. Alteon, which was previously known as Flight Safety Boeing International, looked at all the options then chose Brisbane. On 30 January last year I had the pleasure of turning the first sod on the site. Equipped with \$35 million worth of state-of-the-art pilot and crew training equipment, the centre can provide training programs for as many as 250 people per day.

The flight training centre has added another 50 new jobs to the 4,500 new jobs already created in the Queensland aviation industry since my government took office in 1998. This confirms the importance of overseas trade and investment missions. I seek leave to incorporate the rest of the details of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Amongst these have been:

- the Virgin Blue headquarters;
- Boeing Regional Headquarters;
- Qantas 767 Maintenance Facility;
- Singapore Airlines Lear Jet Training Facility;
- Australian Airlines operational centre;
- EADS Australian Aerospace headquarters; and,
- the Hawker Pacific Maintenance Facility.

The aviation industry has been, and continues to be, a real success story for Queensland.

I am determined to cement our position as the aviation and aerospace hub for the Asia Pacific, in the same way that I have been determined to establish Queensland's reputation as the Smart State.

The opening of this training centre means that, whereas many Australians wanting to be commercial airline pilots often used to travel overseas for flight training, pilots from overseas are now coming to Brisbane for training on the simulators.