



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 28 April 2004

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Australian Innovation Festival

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 a.m.): At midday today I will have the pleasure of launching the Queensland section of the Australian Innovation Festival, which starts next Monday and will run until 16 May. Festival activities are organised in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and on the Gold Coast. They will showcase local technologies as well as provide information to potential innovators and businesses, and this will help them to turn their ideas into commercial products.

The Queensland government offers innovators a range of financial and business assistance programs to help them move towards commercialisation. Two examples of innovative Queensland businesses that will be featured in the launch today are the Brisbane based Standfast Enterprises and Mitchell Boards from Caloundra.

Cameron Baker from Standfast Enterprises got the idea to develop safety harnesses for boats and truckies through his concern as a 12-year-old at seeing his brother almost swept off the rocks near Noosa. Now, his award-winning product is being used by transport giant LinFox and the Japanese Patrol Boat program.

The new fibre composites skateboard, developed by Mitchell Boards, is set to revolutionise this popular sport. The material is ultra light, super strong and will replace the non-renewable timber skateboard decks in the same way that graphite racquets, a few years ago, replaced wooden racquets in tennis.

Also in the spotlight during the Australian Innovation Festival will be the Brisbane Technology Park at Eight Mile Plains. This is Queensland's most developed technology park and is home to 45 companies, employs over 1,300 staff and has a combined annual turnover of more than \$160 million. I am very proud of what we are achieving in the Smart State. I am pleased to support functions like this festival that help expose our Smart State products to the world and continue to develop the spirit of innovation that the government is determined to encourage as part of its Smart State strategy.