



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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Hansard 29 April 2004

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Premier's Export Awards

**Hon. P. D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 a.m.): Later today I will be officially launching the 2004 Premier of Queensland's Export Awards. As part of that ceremony, I will be launching a new initiative for the arts sector, the Queensland Indigenous Arts Marketing and Export Agency. I seek leave to incorporate details of those awards in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Our Indigenous art is in great demand overseas, as the success of the recent exhibition in Dusseldorf revealed.

The Dusseldorf exhibition showcased 39 artworks by 11 artists, from far-north Queensland, south-east Queensland and the Torres Strait. A number of those pieces were sold during the exhibition, but some are on show here today.

Many of those artists are exhibiting work in a special Indigenous exhibition—*Out of Country*—which begins in Washington this Friday.

The Indigenous Arts Marketing and Export Agency was instrumental in putting the exhibition together.

The Premier's Export Awards have been running for 15 years and have steadily grown in stature, with the 2003 event attracting a record 179 entries.

It was particularly pleasing that so many of the entries came from companies based in regional Queensland—143 in all.

Exports contribute more than \$30 billion a year to the state's gross domestic product, currently running at more than \$126 billion.

However, there is room for further expansion and there is a role for government in the development of our international markets, a role which I passionately believe in.

That's why I've assumed the portfolio of Minister for Trade and that's why I will continue to lead trade and investment missions to important and emerging Queensland markets.

We've set a target of increasing the number of Qld exporters by 20 per cent, from 3,000 in 2001 to 3,600 by 2006.

The strategy is working. Since July 1, 2001, we've helped 245 Queensland businesses achieve their first export sales.

Mr Speaker, I urge all Queensland businesses involved in exports to consider participating in the State awards, the winners of which will be announced in October. They will automatically qualify for the national awards, which will be presented on December 9.