



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard 11 May 2004

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Biotechnology International Convention and Exhibition 2004**

**Hon. P.D. BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 a.m.): The annual United States biotechnology international convention and exhibition, known as BIO, is regarded as the world's premier biotechnology conference and draws international participation from industry, government and academia. BIO 2004 will be in San Francisco from 6 June to 9 June and Queensland will have a significant presence.

To date there have been more than 50 Queensland delegates register from 28 organisations, including Alchemia, Clinical Network Services, CM Capital, Griffith University, Imaginot, the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research; Nanomics Biosystems; Progen, Q-Pharm, QUT, Uniquet Vaccine Solutions and Xenome. I seek leave to include more details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Every year since 1999 I have led a trade and investment mission to BIO, inviting representatives of small and medium sized Queensland biotech companies.

The returns are highly encouraging.

For example at BIO 2001 I met representatives of Sequenom, who had been dealing with the Queensland Government Trade and Investment Office in Los Angeles.

Work continued and in February 2002 Sequenom announced the establishment of its Asia-Pacific Headquarters in Brisbane, with an initial investment of \$3 million and an expected economic impact of more than \$10 million over five years.

Last year's mission to BIO yielded an estimated \$25 million in business for Queensland over the following 2 years.

At BIO 2004 next month I will continue be joined by the Minister for Innovation, Tony McGrady, and we will focus on international bio-medical and agri-biotech organisations, and highlight our international status in tropical sciences—including tropical health.

I will promote Queensland as the place for research and development and manufacturing facilities, and for businesses keen to launch into the Asia-Pacific.

I will also urge people to attend AusBiotech 2004—our nation's peak biotech industry forum.

Ausbiotech will be held in Brisbane from 7-10 November, with a satellite meeting in Cairns on 12 November.

Queensland's profile at BIO is helping spread the word about the wondrous advantages of doing BIO business in the Smart State.

On 6 May, when I addressed an American Chamber of Commerce gathering in Sydney, the event chairman, Phil Clark—a Minter Ellison managing partner—told the room some people on the West Coast of America thought Australia was part of Queensland.

It was tongue in cheek, but the mere fact that Phil linked this little jest to our Smart State strategy made his words sweet!

In summary, BIO 2004 will be an opportunity to:

- Present Queensland as an Asia Pacific biotechnology hub;
- Promote Queensland as a leader in biotech commercialisation and development;
- Boost investment in Queensland research and development;
- Support Queensland companies and research organisations seeking partners in collaborative research; and

- Encourage biotech companies and organisations to move to Queensland.