



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 13 May 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South American Mining Update

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 a.m.): My visit to Chile and Brazil in late May and early June this year was part of a trade and investment mission to North and South America will build on the foundations of the South American mining initiative. The initiative began in 2001 and has reaped more than \$20 million in South American contracts for Queensland companies. That is what a Smart State export strategy does. I am pleased to inform the House that we will extend this initiative for another two years until December 2005. Chile has proven to be our best South American market and one where Queensland is building a robust profile.

The former Minister for State Development led a trade mission there, which I think he would agree produced results. Thirteen Queensland companies now have an office or presence in Chile. I will fly the flag for Queensland's industry in meetings with senior Chilean decision makers. I will vigorously promote the joint research and development capabilities of the Queensland Centre of Advanced Technologies and Sustainable Minerals Institute, which was established in 2000, with a \$10 million Queensland government contribution.

As part of my accountability, I provide details to the House of some of the other people I will be meeting. I seek leave to have those details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In Chile I will meet with leading copper producers such as Codelco and Antofagasta Minerals.

Codelco, owned by the Chilean Government, is the world's biggest government-owned copper producer.

Antofagasta owns and operates three Chilean copper mines, has an extensive rail network servicing the important mining region of northern Chile, and is actively exploring in Chile and Peru.

I will also officially open the South America Regional Head Office of Mincom in Chile.

In Brazil I will pursue opportunities to increase Queensland coal technology and equipment export.

I will visit the State of Minas Gerais, where Queensland has a memorandum of understanding about sustainable mining.

Already under the MoU, a Queensland-Minas Gerais working party has formulated a project about mine site rehabilitation.

I will also meet with Acominas, one of Brazil's major steel producers, which imports 80,000 tonnes of coal from Queensland.

Trade Division and the Environmental Protection Agency are working with Acominas.

They are jointly funding an EPA officer to work on environmental programs including community education, and to undertake market development for Queensland business.

The recent upswing of global base metal and commodity prices has broadened Queensland's opportunities in markets such as South America.

We are capitalising on the opportunities.

Last month the Queensland Government, in conjunction with the Australian Industry Group, supported 12 Queensland companies to exhibit at South America's premier mining exhibition, Expomin, in Santiago.

A strong cross section of Queensland's mining services—both equipment and technology—was represented.

The companies included seasoned and new exporters, like Wagner Global Services, Ludowici and Barclay Mowlem.

Feedback received from mission members has been very positive, with indications that their attendance will lead to sales of \$500,000.

Also, several mission members have advised they are negotiating representative agreements with agents for South America.

I will certainly urge Latin American mining identities to attend the Queensland Mining Exhibition in Mackay in July, for a taste of Queensland's expertise and capability.

All these activities in Latin America build on excellent relations established by the former State Development Minister, Tom Barton, who made a trade and investment mission to South America in July 2003.