



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 13 May 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Events Regional Development Program

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 a.m.): One of the many success stories of this Smart State government has been our ability to tap into the needs of regional Queensland. One of the most successful efforts has been the Queensland Events Regional Development Program. Today I am about to outline the successful applicants in the program's sixth round and am also announcing another \$428,555 in state funding. I will be doing that with Queensland Events in front of parliament's portico in the lunch break.

I will incorporate the list of successful round 6 applicants, but before I do that I point out that it includes those organisations that have been successful: Festival Cairns, the Croydon Poddy Dodgers Music Festival, Innisfail Harvest Festival, the Cairns and Townsville Opals World Challenge, Townsville's Cook Island Dance Festival, Julia Creek Dirt and Dust Festival, Birdsville's Great Australian Cattle Drive, the Hughenden Dinosaur Festival, the Childers Multicultural Food, Wine and Arts Festival, Toowoomba 24-hour Film Making Festival, Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers, the Millmerran Camp Oven Festival, the Gatton's Street Sprints, Caboolture's Medieval Tournament, Leyburn's Sprint Around the Houses, Warwick's Hippomaniac Picnic, the Gold Coast Motorbike Week, Hervey Bay's Whale Festival, Kingaroy's Peanut Festival and the Airlie Beach Triathlon. I seek leave to have those details and the remainder of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*. I want to highlight our commitment to regional Queensland.

Leave granted.

An excellent example of this is the ever-increasing number of people who turn up for our regional Community Cabinets.

Another success was of course our North Queensland sitting of Parliament in Townsville.

But among the most successful efforts has been the Queensland Events Regional Development program.

Today I am about to outline the successful applicants in the program's sixth round.

But before I do that I call on event organisers across regional Queensland to make their submissions for our seventh round.

We are continuing the program.

Further details on this will be made at a later time.

But—today I am announcing another \$428,555 in State funding.

In short another 20 have been successful applicants—this time in Round 6 of the Regional Development Program.

Celebrations like the Opals World Challenge being shared between Townsville and Cairns, the Julia Creek Dirt and Dust Festival, Kingaroy's Peanut Festival and Birdsville's Great Australian Cattle Drive all help to unite communities.

They also provide social benefits as well as economic benefits to their respective regions—but also collectively to the state as a whole.

The likes of Toowoomba Gospel Music Festival, Warwick's Inaugural Polo Cross World Championships, or the Isisford Fishing Festival are examples of how this program has shown more than just economic success.

Since the program's inception in 2001 the State Government has invested almost \$2.5 million in 128 regional events.

This is setting a benchmark that is unrivalled in Australia.

Our investment extends beyond financial support.

We also have a QERDP office in Townsville through which assist the development of a more professional management of our regional events.

Telstra Country Wide has been a major sponsor of the Program and Regional Managing Director for Queensland, Mr Don Pinel has confirmed Telstra Country Wide's ongoing support.

Unfortunately Don is not with us today—but Country Wide is to be represented at our launch here later this morning.

Telstra Country Wide is committed to contributing to the many events that directly support the culture and lifestyle of local communities living in regional and rural Queensland.

For further information about the Queensland Events Regional Development Program visit www.queenslandevents.com.au or telephone the Townsville-based secretariat on (07) 4799 7301.

I table the List of successful Round 6 applicants

It includes;

QUEENSLAND EVENTS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—ROUND 6 BY REGIONAL TOURIST ORGANISATION BOUNDARIES

REGION: TROPICAL NORTH QUEENSLAND

4-25 September 2004: Festival Cairns, Cairns

24-26 September 2004: Croydon Paddy Dodgers Music Festival, Croydon

15-24 October 2004: Innisfail Harvest Festival, Innisfail

9-13 June 2004: Opals World Challenge, Cairns & Townsville

REGION: TOWNSVILLE

9-13 June 2004: Opals World Challenge, Townsville & Cairns

25 October—5 November 2004: Cook Island Dance Festival, Townsville

REGION: OUTBACK

15-17 April 2005: Julia Creek Dirt and Dust Festival, Julia Creek

29 April—2 May 2005: Great Australian Cattle Drive, Birdsville

2-6 September 2004: Hughenden Dinosaur Festival, Hughenden

REGION: BUNDABERG

19-25 July 2004: Childers Multicultural Food, Wine, and Arts Festival, Childers

REGION: TOOWOOMBA

30 September—4 October 2004: The Shoot Out 24 hour filmmaking Festival, Toowoomba

17-26 September 2004: Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba

2-3 October 2004: Australian Camp Oven Festival, Millmerran

REGION: BRISBANE

5-6 March 2005: Gatton Street Sprints, Gatton

10-11 July 2004: The Abbey Medieval Tournament, Caboolture

REGION: SOUTHERN DOWNS

21-22 August 2004: Sprint around the Houses, Leyburn

24-25 July 2004: The Hippomanic Picnic, Warwick

REGION: GOLD COAST

14-20 September 2004: Gold Coast Motor Bike Week, Gold Coast

REGION: SOUTH BURNETT

1-7 August 2004: Hervey Bay Whale Festival, Hervey Bay

11 September 2004: Peanut Festival, Kingaroy

REGION: WHITSUNDAYS

12 September 2004: Airlie Beach Triathlon, Airlie Beach