



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 20 May 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Smart State

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.51 a.m.): Often there are assessments about how well the Smart State is working. I would like to draw the attention of anybody who doubts my government's Smart State policies to the proceedings of the New South Wales Committee on State Development in the New South Wales Legislative Council. The committee has given us an excellent endorsement. In the debate on its final report on science and its commercialisation in New South Wales, Queensland was widely seen as leading the way in research and commercialisation and, therefore, new jobs. For instance, Patricia Forsythe MLC said—

Time and again, Queensland was pointed out as being the state doing the most to foster scientific research and to underpin its industries in their endeavours in relation to research and development.

She also said—

The committee is of the opinion that it is being addressed perhaps most successfully in Queensland.

Queensland has taken a positive and proactive approach within a portfolio that is well focused on the benefits for the state.

I want to thank Ms Forsythe. But that is not all. Melinda Pavey MLC said—

It was a continuing theme of the committee's investigations that Queensland is being the smartest of all states in its embracing, encouraging, funding and driving of technology. Congratulations to Premier Beattie; he is doing a fine job.

I should advise the House that Ms Forsythe is a Liberal member of the upper house and that Melinda Pavey is a National Party member of the upper house. I table a copy of that report for all members to read—as I know they will—and I seek leave to incorporate the rest of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

'If the findings of the State Development Committee can generate in the New South Wales Government the same level of interest in this very important area as is apparent in Queensland, then members of the committee will have done a good job.'

The report itself makes many favourable references to Queensland, showing that others could learn from Smart State initiatives.

It includes references to our science education and commercialisation strategies, and Science in Parliament.

It says the Committee travelled to Brisbane in September 2003 to meet with representatives of the Departments of State Development and Innovation and Information Economy, and 'the Committee was able to understand the processes that the Queensland Government has considered and implemented to best support and promote science commercialisation in that state.'

For instance the report heard from Professor Peter Booth, a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at UTS that Queensland Government support of companies seeking access to Federally-funded research initiatives in the past few years has directed research grants to Queensland (p45).

The report also says: 'Evidence to the Committee has been strongly supportive of the approach that some other States have taken. As part of its Smart State vision, the Queensland Government is implementing a number of strategies to address the decline in the number of students pursuing careers in science and technology.' (P50)