



Speech by

**Hon. PETER BEATTIE**

**MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL**

Hansard Wednesday, 1 March 2006

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Bird Flu**

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.47 am): The threats of outbreaks of avian influenza overseas in recent years have increased the need for governments to have a worldwide plan for the possibility of an influenza pandemic occurring. I made it clear that the Queensland government has been working with key stakeholders regarding this. I would like to table information in relation to that and incorporate details in *Hansard* so that members are up to date about the plans.

Leave granted.

There have been recent reports on the spread of avian flu into Europe and there is a potential for migratory birds to introduce the disease into this country.

However, at this stage, we have had no reports of the H5N1 subtype in wild birds or domestic poultry anywhere in Australia.

But there is a possibility that migratory birds could bring the disease here, and poultry farmers are implementing biosecurity strategies so that if that does happen, they can reduce the risk of it entering domestic poultry flocks.

The Queensland Government has made information available on the internet to inform Queenslanders of the facts.

The first fact sheet talks about how we are preparing for a possible pandemic.

Other fact sheets deal with avian flu in humans and frequently asked questions about avian flu and about pandemic flu.

This information can be accessed by going to [www.qld.gov.au](http://www.qld.gov.au) then click the health and communities box, then click on "health" and finally, click on "avian influenza".