



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 28 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Ideas Festival

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (10.12 am): I am delighted to be opening the 2006 Ideas Festival this Wednesday, 29 March. I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

This four-day event presented by the Queensland Government attracts audiences from far and wide, and from a range of disciplines, professions and communities.

On top of 75 public lectures and debates, the Festival features a new Ideas for Schools program giving secondary school students the opportunity to hear the work of leading local, national, and international thinkers.

There's also a Kids' Ideas program, with free activities for young children.

Many taking part in the 2006 Ideas Festival are successful Queenslanders who work in our communities, government, and in business. Through the Festival they will showcase their achievements, provide new insights, and inspire our budding innovators of the future.

The Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Water's new work on devising salt resistant and low water use turf-grasses, and the Queensland Police Service's road safety initiatives, are among the projects to be profiled.

There will also be speaker-and-panel sessions, all of which are open to the public—and most of these are free. Sessions include education, law, urban development, resource management, parenting, working life, economics, international affairs, and much more.

Two of the Smart State's very own inventors are also joining the judging panel of the ABC's free, New Inventors session which will be held on Sunday, April 2nd.

In fact, much of the Festival program will be heard by audiences around Australia, as well as internationally, ensuring the Smart State is further acknowledged as being forward thinking, innovative and supportive of open public debate.

The Queensland Government, through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, has invested \$560,000 in this year's Ideas Festival, with the Department of Education and Arts contributing a further \$100,000.

The Festival has secured another \$500,000 through corporate sponsorships, which has allowed us to increase the scope of the Festival's program and to present most of it for free.

The Ideas Festival is about the public discussion of ideas for our future, engaging with our communities, and inspiring the future leaders in whose hands we entrust the Smart State.