



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 30 March 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

China and Hong Kong, Trade Delegation

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.42 am): I would like to inform the House that I have approved the parliamentary trade delegation to China and Hong Kong from 5 April to 13 April 2006. I have asked the Hon. Tony McGrady MP, Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, to lead the delegation. The delegation will comprise both government and non-government members including: Ms Cate Molloy, Dr Lesley Clark, Desley Scott, Jason O'Brien, Marc Rowell and Dorothy Pratt. Mr Speaker, under the rules established for your travel, I table the two letters of authority required.

The Delegation will strengthen government networks with China and Hong Kong and support an increase in business outcomes from Queensland's Sister State Agreement with Shanghai.

Importantly, it will also provide support for Queensland companies to win projects in the marine, aviation, mining and construction sectors, especially associated with the 2010 Shanghai World Exposition.

The Delegation will also have the opportunity to meet with the Shanghai People's Congress, which is the equivalent of Queensland's Parliament.

Parliamentary delegations provide the perfect opportunity for the advancement of Queensland's Smart State strategies internationally—by developing and enhancing bilateral relationships and alliances at a government to government level.

It is crucial to recognise the importance of these broader, strategic relations, as they are essential for Queensland to cement its place as a world leader in innovation, smart industry, and emerging technologies.

The specific details of the itinerary are being finalised this week. However, the Delegation will hold meetings with key Government officials and businesses in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou before travelling to Hong Kong.

China and Hong Kong are important markets for Queensland. Trade figures for 2004-05 place China as our third largest merchandise export destination and our third largest source of merchandise imports with bilateral trade valued at A\$3.98b.

Exports were valued at A\$1.89b with major merchandise items being iron ore, textiles, coal and copper ores.

Hong Kong is a significant trade partner and is an important entry point for Queensland firms seeking access to the China market.

In 2004-05 our bilateral trade with Hong Kong was worth A\$389m, comprising merchandise exports worth A\$287.9m and imports of A\$101.1m.

This Parliamentary Delegation demonstrates the high-level and broad reaching support for these relationships on behalf of all Queenslanders.