



Speech by

## Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 25 May 2006

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Australia Week, Moscow

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.49 am): Austrade says that Australia Week in Moscow from 11 June to 18 June is the most important trade event for Australian businesses exploring growth opportunities in Russia. That is why the Queensland government is the major government sponsor of this export and investment opportunity, forming a bond with the other major government sponsor, the Moscow government. The Queensland government is not alone in recognising the opportunities. BHP has also seen what the advancements in the Russian market offer, particularly in the mining and resources sectors, and has taken an aggressive approach to the market by also becoming a major sponsor and participant.

The Queensland government has worked very hard to build strong relationships with significant markets across the world. Russia is the final frontier in that campaign. Since I have been Premier, we have advanced markets in the Middle East, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, India, Egypt, Vietnam, Mexico, Germany—that is North Rhine-Westphalia—Korea, Ireland, South America—that is Chile and Brazil—Israel, Italy—we are working on an agreement with Lombardy—and East Timor. I table that information for the House.

*Tabled paper:* Email dated 25 May 2006 from Marty Mayhew to Wendy George titled *Updated new markets entered since 1998*.

The last significant market that I believe we should be in is Russia and we are taking steps to do that. Last year the Deputy Premier visited Russia as the minister for trade. We will be pursuing these opportunities.

The other major Australian sponsor is Firepower, a Western Australian based manufacturer of a range of hydrocarbon based fuel conditioners and high technology machines. That is another example of the recognition of the opening up of the Russian market. We are working to ensure that Queensland companies and the community benefit from the enormous opportunities that the Russian market offers. Exports are responsible for up to one in four jobs in Queensland. So we must export more if we are to maintain and improve our living standard. Australia Week combines a trade show, one-on-one meetings, business seminars, networking events and a cultural program and is the best way to meet interested Russian customers and partners and start doing business in the fastest growing economy in Europe.

The first Australia Week in Moscow, held in 2005, led to new deals worth millions of dollars for participating companies. This success has encouraged Austrade to plan for a bigger and better event in 2006. The centrepiece of Australia Week in Moscow 2006 will be a trade show held in the heart of Moscow. This exhibition will provide a unique opportunity to demonstrate the diversity and quality of Queensland products and services in the largest city in Europe, with a population of more than 10 million.

I advise the House that I will be leading a trade and investment mission to Moscow to take advantage of these export opportunities in order to create more jobs for Queenslanders. After launching Australia Week in Moscow, I will attend the first meeting of the Russia Australia Business Forum. A series of meetings with significant Russian corporations will also be held to further push the 'invest in

Queensland' message. I will then return to Queensland by way of China where I will take the opportunity of leading a second trade delegation to try to increase our trade with China, which is our fifth largest export destination. Our relationship with the Chinese government and business leaders is strong, but I want to reinforce at senior government and commercial levels the high priority that the Queensland government places on trade and investment relationships with China.

During this short trade and investment mission, relationships with Russia and China will be enhanced. Russia's ambitious program of economic reforms being delivered by President Putin and the aggressive attempts by his administration towards modernising Russia and moving towards full integration into the international community is well advanced and is producing very positive results. It gives us unique opportunities.

I seek leave to have the other things that I will be doing as well as the names of a number of the business leaders coming with me incorporated in *Hansard*. Those people include Andrew Craig from the Australia Industry Group and representatives from Queensland Education Training International and Aviation Australia as well as representatives of a string of businesses including Mincom, which has significant investments.

Leave granted.

As Russia's focus turns towards the Asia-Pacific region, it gives Queensland, one of the leading growth economies in this region, a once in a lifetime opportunity to build a strong relationship with one of the major economies in the world today.

The reform processes are forcing major industrial restructuring which, when completed, will spur the growth of enterprises that are viable in a global market economy. In addition, many new high-tech enterprises are emerging and a new generation of Western-educated Russian business executives is in the process of contributing to the Russian economy.

This presents enormous opportunity to entrepreneurial companies in this state and Australia to forge long term partnerships with these new-age Russian companies.

Record oil prices and a doubling of its oil exports since 2000 has allowed Russia repay its debts to the IMF ahead of schedule, and Russia is now looking at a range of global investments, and I will be aggressively promoting Queensland as a sound investment destination.

During the mission I will also be encouraging the growth of Queensland exports to Russia and China, especially in the key sectors of mining and mining services, and infrastructure services, including engineering, construction, urban planning, transport infrastructure development and marina development.

And I will be promoting the strengths of Queensland's industries, particularly in our emerging "smart" industries information and communications technology, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing technologies and clean energy technologies, and in our traditionally strong industries, including tourism, mining and food.

I will go back to Chalco—the company planning the largest ever Chinese investment in Queensland—to ensure everything is going as smoothly as possible in relation to the Aurukun bauxite project.

Whilst in China I will also meet again with the China National Development and Reform Commission—China's lead agency for overseas investment—with which we have an agreement which makes Queensland and its resources a preferred destination for major Chinese investors.

The business delegation to Russia will include business leaders like:

Andrew Craig, Director—Queensland, Australia Industry Group;  
Michelle Allan, Director, Queensland Education Training International;  
Meredith Gray, Export Development Manager, Rebound Ace Sports;  
Paul Bredereck, Chief Executive Officer, Aviation Australia.

Queensland participants in the Australia Week include:

Kerry and Elena Gosse, Managing Director, AIS Enterprises;  
Allen Vaughn, Vice President, MINCOM;  
Paul Bull and Meredith Gray, Rebound Ace Sports;  
Eric van Raas, Teys Bros Pty Ltd;  
John Watts, Director, Wagner;  
Stephen Kelly, General Manager, Nippon Meat Packers;  
Dennis Bouchard, Director, ITAC Australia/Quantum Innovation;  
Dimity Dornan, Hear and Say Pty Ltd;  
James Leftwich, Austrex;  
Darren Anderson, Anderson Industries.

The business delegation for China will include a range of senior business people including:

Dr Robyn Wallace, The Queensland Brain Institute;  
Paul Henry, Senior Principal, HOK Sport;  
John Ward, Chairman, ComEnergy;  
John Hocken, Managing Director, ComEnergy;  
Paul Bredereck, Chief Executive Officer, Aviation Australia;  
Michael Yau, National Liaison Council of Chinese Australian.