



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 8 June 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Barcaldine, Tree of Knowledge

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.52 am): The minister for primary industries will address the House this morning in relation to the poisoning of the Tree of Knowledge. I want to highlight to those in the community who are concerned about this—and bearing in mind there is a Labor Party conference on the weekend—and I want to assure my colleagues that on a positive note the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries rescued the tree from serious decline in 1992. The cuttings taken at that time resulted in a clone of the Tree of Knowledge. That surviving clone was planted at the Workers Heritage Centre at Barcaldine and is thriving. Some 30 grafts have been taken from the clone and are being worked on for compatible root stocks at the Primary Industries and Fisheries nursery. Whoever poisoned that tree has wasted their time, because we will ensure the future of the Tree of Knowledge. I want to table some material from Barcaldine to highlight our determination.

Tabled paper: Booklet titled 'Discover Barcaldine, Home of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre and the Tree of Knowledge'.

Tabled paper: Posters from the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, Barcaldine.