



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 8 June 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Biotechnology Industry

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier) (9.53 am): I want to give the parliament an update on the biotechnology industry. Since 1998 the Queensland government has invested almost \$3 billion in innovation, science and research, and that includes a range of things like providing to the Australian of the Year, Professor Ian Frazer, a Smart State premiership fellowship which provides \$250,000 a year for five years to the University of Queensland Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research at Princess Alexandra Hospital. I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Professor Frazer has helped put Queensland on the map with groundbreaking scientific achievements. As my colleagues would be aware, he has dedicated 20 years to researching the cause of cervical cancer and has proven the link between it and papilloma virus.

The 8th consecutive Queensland Biotechnology Mission to BIO 2006 led by the Deputy Premier was an unmitigated success in relation to advancing the Smart State's position as a leading regional hub for biotechnology.

The Queensland presence at BIO 2006 was significant and our reception showcased Queensland Biotechnology, Agribusiness and food to 150 guests from the US biotechnology and investment community.

My Government recently announced the Research-Industry Partnerships grants as part of the Innovation Fund to assist collaborative "near to market" research projects between industry and research organisations.

Examples of the beneficiaries of the Queensland Government's new Smart State Innovation Funding include improving heart disease diagnosis, making commercial products from sugarcane waste, and the development of new testing tools that will reduce the time taken to bring a medical drug to market.

As I announced during my recent visit to France, we're also providing a \$2 million Smart State research grant to Queensland and American scientists that will improve the lives of people around the world through the development of simple tests for early disease diagnostics.

The project would be led by UQ's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology in collaboration with the Queensland-based company Nanomics and world leading research institutes including the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre based in Washington State.

The Smart State is proving its worth in innovation and bio-technology and the Queensland Government will continue to ensure our researchers and scientists lead the way.