



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 2 November 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Lexmark Indy 300

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): Australia's No. 1 racing event, the Indy, has been another success this year. The 2006 Lexmark Indy was a stunning success. Over the four-day carnival, more than 312,000 people from around the world hit the Gold Coast. I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Those that attended were lucky enough to see Holden Racing's Todd Kelly pick up the coveted victors surfboard in the V8s and Nelson Philippe claim victory in the Champ Cars.

Phillipe kept the unique streak alive at Indy—the 16th different champ car to hold up the trophy in 16 years of the event.

While I congratulate him for his win I must admit that I was cheering on Team Australia.

They didn't get across the line in first place this year but they came awfully close.

Will Power took pole position but was forced out the race and Alex Tagliani got up on the podium in third place.

In the support categories, Alex Davison won the Wright Patton Shakespeare Carrera Cup, Damien White took out the Hayman's Electrical V8 Utes and Kyle Clews won the CARSGuide Aussie Racing cars.

The Lexmark Indy continues to go from strength to strength.

Our Government has always been a strong supporter and our support has paid dividends for Queenslanders.

It is estimated to pump approximately \$60 million into our economy each year.

That is money that means jobs for Queenslanders and benefits for business.

It provides priceless exposure for the Gold Coast with a potential audience of 900 million people in 164 countries.

Of course there are also many other benefits for tourism with many of the visitors that come from interstate and overseas also extending their holiday and visiting other parts of our great State.

The 17th Lexmark Indy 300 will be held on the Gold Coast from October 18 to 21 next year.

I encourage Queenslanders to get in early and get their tickets for one of the most popular and exciting sporting events in the world.