



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 28 November 2006

---

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Trade Mission

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.22 am): Between 6 and 19 November 2006 I led a trade mission to the Middle East, Monaco, the United Kingdom, Italy and Germany. A total of 22 Queensland companies participated in the trade mission. The focus of the trade mission was to forge business links with Middle Eastern and European countries, further trade opportunities for Queensland companies and promote the Smart State as a key investment and recruitment destination. In the Middle East I was able to announce that Queensland had become the first Australian state to establish trade representation in Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. This is the first report on my trip. I seek leave to have further details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In meetings with key industry representatives from the Saudi Chamber of Commerce and the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce there were wide ranging discussions on opportunities for Queensland companies in infrastructure, construction and services.

The capabilities of Queensland firms in these areas are unquestionable and Queensland's formal presence in both the United Arab Emirates and in Saudi Arabia will ensure our companies are able to make the most of the enormous opportunities arising in the Middle East.

In London, I signed a major trade and investment agreement with the Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency.

The agreement targets business opportunities for Queensland companies from the estimated \$24 billion to be spent in the sports and sports events sector for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Already I am exploring options for building on the Yorkshire agreement, and the Department of State Development and Trade has secured the services of mjaMatchpoint Pty Ltd, a Sunshine Coast-based event consultancy to prepare a report on London 2012 and the related opportunities.

While in London I was also able to present works by two of Queensland's acclaimed Indigenous artists—Fiona Foley and Denis Nona—to the prestigious British Museum.

I can also report that interest in working in Queensland remains at a high level in the UK. We are continuing to promote Queensland as the destination of choice for highly qualified professionals, particularly in the engineering and health industries.

As the House is aware, Brisbane has announced its intention to bid to host the 2011 World Athletic Championships. I travelled to Monaco, as part of the Trade Mission to meet with the International Association of Athletics Federation which has its headquarters there.

I was able to advise the President of the International Association of Athletics Federations, Mr Lamine Diack, and the Federations Council members, Prince Albert II of Monaco and Lord Sebastian Coe of Queensland's intention.

In Italy, I signed a formal bilateral agreement with the Lombardy Regional Government and discussed developments to date under the Agreement with the Piedmont Region signed in July this year.

In Milan, the Queensland-Lombardy Region Protocol of Cooperation was signed to facilitate closer business and scientific ties between Queensland and Lombardy.

Mr Roberto Formigoni, President of the Lombardy Region, and I agreed to focus particularly on increasing collaboration in the biotechnology sector. This is an area of particular strength in the Lombardy region and presents opportunities for Queensland researchers hoping to commercialise their research.

The President of Piedmont, Ms Mercedes Bresso and I met and reviewed progress under the Statement of Intent between Queensland and Piedmont.

Mr Rodolfo Zich, Chairman of the Torino Wireless Foundation, a major partner under this Agreement has accepted my invitation to lead a delegation to Queensland in 2007 to explore the potential for collaboration on joint projects and on wireless technologies, including Global Navigation Satellite Systems and the Galileo project.

The Galileo project is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the European Space Agency and is valued at approximately \$€3.6 billion.

In Berlin and Frankfurt I met key Australian Government officials and parliamentarians to discuss trade and skilled migration opportunities and the proposed reforms to German Federalism, particularly in the areas of fiscal reform, education and the labour market and how they might apply in Australia.

I will have more to say on the issue of the German model of Federalism—and in particular the role of their State's house in coming days.

In addition in Berlin, I discussed with Mr Rudolf Anzinger, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs the value of a joint Statement of Intent between Germany and Queensland to investigate possible collaboration regarding attracting and exporting skilled labour.

One key topic of discussion with government representatives across Europe—most especially in my meetings in the UK, Germany and Italy—was that of Queensland's leading role in the development of clean coal technology. The Queensland Government sponsored project to develop clean coal technology is ahead of the international pack on this issue and I know members of this house will welcome yesterday's announcement that the State funding (\$300M) will go ahead following the agreement on the sale of Sun Retail electricity retailing business with Origin Energy.

Mr Speaker, my trade mission for Queensland was an outstanding success. As Minister for Trade I will continue to promote Queensland as the Smart State to maximise opportunities for Queensland businesses to achieve their global export potential, and drive export growth for Queensland. I will provide a detailed report on the mission, as is usual, within the next 20 days.

**Mr BEATTIE:** I will provide information on additional matters to the House, but that is my first report.