



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 29 November 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Irwin, Mr S

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): In relation to the tragic death of Steve Irwin, I want to inform the House that more than 23,000 people took the opportunity to send messages to Terri, Bindi and Bob Irwin and the extended Irwin family. Of these, nearly 1,000 were individual messages of condolence received in Queensland offices. A further 150 messages were received in our London office, 40 in Los Angeles, 28 in Jakarta, 17 in Japan, 11 in Taiwan and seven in Shanghai. I want to advise all of the people who sent messages of condolence that they will now be collated and I will be presenting them to Terri Irwin in the near future. I seek leave to incorporate more details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, as this house is aware the sudden death of Steve Irwin set off a wave of grief and outpourings of sympathy for his family from people across the world.

Steve's vision and passion for the protection and preservation of wildlife left an important legacy for future generations.

As a measure of respect the Queensland Government arranged for Condolence Books to be made available for people to leave personal messages for the Irwin family.

Condolence Books were located in the Executive Building and at Parliament House in Brisbane, in Environmental Protection Agencies throughout the State, and Queensland Government Trade and Investment Offices in the United States, United Kingdom, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, India, Indonesia and Korea.

People were also able to send their messages via a specially provided web page on the Queensland Government site.

It is hoped these condolence books will provide some form of comfort to his family and tangible proof of the affection and respect with which he was held around the world.

We will continue to work with the Irwin family to ensure Steve's legacy is a continued commitment across Queensland to the conservation of wildlife and wild spaces.