



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Trade Mission to the United Kingdom

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.55 am): Also in relation to my recent overseas trip I want to report to the parliament the aspects involving the United Kingdom. I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, on the 28th and 29th of March I led a trade mission to the United Kingdom.

There was a strong emphasis on the environment and climate change, investment opportunities, and transport services.

As one of our top 10 export destinations, the UK is an important springboard for Queensland companies wanting to export into Europe.

In London I met Essex & Suffolk Water and the Drinking Water Inspectorate to discuss issues surrounding recycled water, and the UK's regulatory environment.

I signed an international research agreement between our Climate Change Centre and the Walker Institute.

I also signed an agreement with the Climate Variability and Forecasting Group at the Hadley Centre for Climate Change.

These important partnerships will steer joint research into areas such as climate systems analysis and modelling.

While in London, I was delighted to announce six Queensland bands had been signed by the UK independent record label, MSR Music.

My Department introduced these musicians to MSR last year at the QMusic Big Sound Conference, so this is an outstanding result.

It should be noted that Queensland's creative industries contribute AUS \$1.1 billion in export income to the State's economy each year.

Mr Speaker, I also met executives at the Scott Wilson Group—one of the largest civil engineering consultancies in the UK.

It is significant this company has chosen Queensland as the location for their regional headquarters which open in Brisbane later this year.

Initially employing 10 staff, it plans to grow to over 30 staff in five years.

In another international windfall, Queensland company InfoHRM's expansion into Europe includes the opening this month of a permanent presence in London.

This Milton-based company's impressive UK client list already reads like a who's who: the BT Group, Cadbury Schweppes, InterContinental Hotels, and the Reuters Group.

Mr Speaker, my trade and investment mission to the United Kingdom was another important milestone in securing the long-term economic future of the Smart State.