



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Day

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.52 am): As honourable members will know, each year we celebrate our state's birthday, Queensland Day, on 6 June. I wish all Queenslanders a happy Queensland Day. I seek leave to have the details of Queensland Day and our activities incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Today's anniversary marks the special occasion of the birth of Queensland as a self-governing colony.

Looking back on our history, the movement towards statehood began in 1851 with a public meeting to consider separation from New South Wales.

This push gathered momentum and, after much deliberation and public discussion, Queen Victoria signed the Letters Patent on the 6th of June, 1859.

On that same day an Order-in-Council gave Queensland its own Constitution, and we became a self-governing colony with our own Governor, a nominated Legislative Council and an elected Legislative Assembly.

These events in our State's past, and the actions of people who boldly pioneered our independence, have helped shape Queensland as we know it today.

And 148 years on, Queensland has built on that pioneering tradition and forged a reputation as Australia's Smart State—renowned globally for its friendly people, places, culture, business, research and innovation, and our tourism destinations.

We think Queensland Day is so important that it's worth celebrating for a whole week right around the State, from the 3rd to the 10th of June.

There's over 100 community events, from a community barbecue in the Whitsundays, to a citizenship ceremony on the Gold Coast.

Queensland Week celebrates what's great about Queensland and being a Queenslander.

Mr Speaker, I encourage all Queenslanders to celebrate our great State and Wear Maroon with Pride during Queensland Week.

Happy birthday Queensland.