



Speech by

# Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 6 September 2007

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Peacekeepers

**Hon. PD BEATTIE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): This month marks the 60th anniversary of the arrival of the first Australian peacekeepers in Indonesia in September 1947. Since then more than 75,000 brave Australians have served in various peacekeeping operations throughout the world. It is important that we recognise the important and significant role our Australian Defence Force and police force personnel have made to world peace and security, and they continue to do so.

We owe all these brave men and women a debt of gratitude. With their skill and dedication they have helped thousands of people whose lives have been impacted by conflict. On behalf of the Queensland parliament, I would like to thank them for their service. I encourage members next week to wear the badge that has been sent to us by those organising the celebrations. As I understand it, the first Australian peacekeepers in Indonesia left on 14 September 1947, which is next Friday. I think it is important as a parliament that we acknowledge the peacekeepers' contribution, and I encourage members to wear the badge to recognise what they have done for us.