

**Question on Notice
No. 417
Asked on 28 March 2006**

MR LINGARD asked the Minister for Small Business, Information Technology Policy and Multicultural Affairs (MR CUMMINS) —

QUESTION:

With reference to the department's assistance to BIGmate Monitoring Services —

- (1) How much did the Government contribute to BIGmate?
- (2) Along with BIGmate, what other projects has the Ministerial Advisory Group examined for the current year to date and from 2003 (each reported separately)?
- (3) What recommendations or influence does the Ministerial Advisory Group have on the allocation of funding?

ANSWER:

The CEO of BIGmate, André Wessels, is on my ICT Ministerial Advisory Group.

As the BIGmate website says, "having contributed to key state government initiatives in the past, BIGmate's selection to join this elite group was unsolicited and demonstrated ICT's regard for BIGmate as an influence in the Queensland technology sector."

The members of my ICT Ministerial Advisory Group are recognised as leaders in the sector.

The Ministerial Advisory Group has absolutely no involvement whatsoever in grants allocated in my portfolio.

Queensland's ICT industry currently employs an estimated 64,500 people and generates A\$21.1 billion in sales, including \$878 million in exports.

The Ministerial Advisory group, along with the ICT Industry Workgroup, has now firmly established strong working relationships between government and industry; relationships that will help us implement our ICT development strategy for Queensland, *Smart ICT – Taking it to the World*.

The strategy will help Queensland's ICT industry grow by improving the way we promote our products and services both nationally and internationally; encouraging and supporting new and existing exporters; developing stronger collaboration and partnerships within the private and public sectors, including universities; encouraging the commercialisation of government-owned IP by private industry; helping established industries, such as our manufacturing

and mining industries, improve their productivity, by promoting the use of Queensland's world-class ICT solutions; and investigating, targeting and aggressively pursuing more opportunities for local companies in vertical markets.

My advisory group works hard volunteering their time for the betterment of the IT industry in Queensland. Importantly, the Advisory Group provided invaluable input into the development of the Government's key ICT industry development strategy, *Smart ICT – Taking it to the World*, released in December 2004.