

Question on Notice
No. 670
Asked on 9 May 2006

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

QUESTION:

With reference to representatives from the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance who I understand are visiting the Gold Coast this month —

How is the Government utilising this knowledge to benefit our local ICT industry?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question and congratulate her on her continued support for the strong ICT industry on the Gold Coast.

In keeping with the Smart State vision of fostering growth and development in Queensland's ICT industry, the Government recently hosted a Canadian business delegation from the Greater Toronto area in Ontario. The mission which spent two days in Queensland, was organised by the Greater Toronto Marketing Alliance (GTMA) and included representatives from Canadian architectural companies, urban planners, prime contractors from the construction industry, municipal government and the Canadian telecommunications company, Bell Canada.

The Department of State Development, Trade and Innovation organised seminars in Brisbane and the Gold Coast mid May 2006 to provide an opportunity for local companies to meet with the Toronto delegation to discuss opportunities in municipal government procurement, telecommunications, building security, global navigation satellite systems and intelligent environments in the Greater Toronto area. Representatives of a number of Gold Coast ICT related companies and organisations met with the Toronto delegation and were able to discuss specific opportunities with them.

The seminar also covered issues relating to doing business in Canada, due diligence, commercial legal considerations, taxation issues and visa requirements and highlighted the potential to work with Canadian companies into the US market.

The visit of the GTMA delegation to the Gold Coast built on the networks developed by a Queensland Government ICT delegation which visited Toronto and Ottawa in 2004 and is a further example of how the Government is assisting Queensland ICT companies to further develop their export business.