

**QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**No. 427**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 13 March 2007**

**MR LAWLOR** asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

**QUESTION:**

With reference to page 1-2 paragraph 2 of his department's Ministerial Portfolio Statements—

Will he provide an example of where the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries has attracted a large international science conference to Queensland?

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F), as a major research and development agency, uses sponsorships to attract and support key international science conferences to Queensland to support the government's vision as 'Australia's Smart State'.

These conferences not only bring thousands of business and holiday makers to the State but also reaffirm the State's lead role in a number of key research areas and stimulate national and international sharing of expertise and collaborations.

In 2006, DPI&F was a major sponsor of the Tropical Crop Biotechnology Conference held in Cairns from 16 to 19 August. DPI&F also sponsored the Agricultural Biotechnology International Conference in Melbourne from 6 to 9 August 2006 so that we could effectively promote the Cairns event and encourage international visitors to extend their Australian stay into Queensland.

Almost 60 per cent of the delegates at the Cairns conference were from overseas representing 31 different nations. Many brought their spouses and families and holidayed in Queensland after the event was over.

This was the first time that a significant event on the theme of tropical crop biotechnology was held and due to its success a further event is being planned in South Africa in three years.

Apart from the economic and scientific benefits of hosting such a conference, there were newspaper articles, television stories and radio interviews, which profiled Queensland nationally and internationally as world-leaders in tropical crop biotechnology and Queensland as a fitting meeting place for world-leading experts.