

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 674
Asked on Tuesday, 22 May 2007

MRS LAVARCH asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR MULHERIN)-

QUESTION:

Will he advise of the activities at the recent Revolutionary Science Forum at the Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology and how the forum has contributed to the promotion of innovative food science?

ANSWER:

In April 2007, the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F) hosted the 'Revolutionary Science' forum at the Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology.

This event kicked off Primary Industries Week by putting the scientists behind Queensland's primary industries under the spotlight in front of an invited audience of industry stakeholders, scientists and students.

The aim was to showcase DPI&Fs futuristic science to a non-scientific audience, gain support from existing and potential investors and gain the attention of students considering a career in agricultural science.

The four presentations by DPI&F scientists focussed on science that could contribute substantially to accelerated growth in primary industries like beef, horticulture, grain and forestry. The displays and taste testing highlighted some of the outcomes of DPI&F's science and the significant contribution agricultural science can have on people's every day lives.

The event drew support from Brisbane media outlets looking for local coverage for Primary Industries Week. The coverage demonstrated to the general public that agricultural science is exciting and can make a real difference to the Queensland economy and lifestyle.

Stakeholders took away new knowledge about the scientific work happening now to grow Queensland's markets into the future and were given the opportunity to discuss possible collaborations with lead scientists.

The students particularly showed an exciting level of enthusiasm and interest in the science showcased and want to be involved again next year. Children are our future scientists and this event gave them an opportunity to talk to world-class scientists and see the real life application of biological science.

The event started a useful partnership with the Queensland Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology. Creating a link to the Academy will allow DPI&F to demonstrate the possibilities of careers in agricultural science to some of Queensland's brightest students.

DPI&F is very interested in expanding this event to more students as it has great potential for showcasing the realistic opportunities for students who choose a career in science.