

**Question on Notice
No. 397
Asked on 13 March 2008**

MR BOMBOLAS asked the Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (MS BOYLE) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister provide details of FIESTA 2008 and what benefits are gained by attracting Australia's top food technology conference to Queensland (Brisbane) for the first time?—

ANSWER:

In a major coup for Queensland's farmers, seafood companies and food processors, the Bligh Government has attracted Australia's top food technology conference - FIESTA 2008 - to Brisbane.

This is the 4th biennial conference and Queensland successfully competed with Melbourne and Sydney to attract this event to our State for the first time.

Food is big business in the Smart State where we have an international reputation for healthy, delicious and safe foods.

Food processing is now Queensland's largest manufacturing sector in terms of revenue, contributing \$15 billion a year to our economy and employing some 43,500 Queenslanders.

The conference will host up to 150 delegates made up of the world's top scientists, industry leaders and key members of the agrifood industry, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, all looking to advance food industry development through food technology, value adding, packaging, transportation and logistics.

This conference highlights the increasing contribution of food innovation and emerging technologies to the current global food industry trends of health and nutrition, safety, quality and functionality as well as highlighting aspects of equipment, market opportunities and associated commercialisation case studies.

The conference will attract internationally recognised speakers from the UK, USA, Japan, Belgium, Ireland, talking to and interacting with Queensland's and Australia's industry leaders about advancing food science technology and innovation.

FIESTA 2008 brings many benefits to the Queensland Food Industry. Queensland will be showcased to companies interested in opening up new markets or expanding existing operations. This conference will provide opportunities for our industry experts to exchange the latest information on new technologies emerging in their sectors, with their counterparts across the globe. They will also meet with researchers, consultants and equipment suppliers and talk about new opportunities for joint research projects and training. Queensland's food industry leaders will take part in business matching activities with key representatives from South-East Asia and other target areas.

The attraction of the conference to Queensland is the Bligh Government's investment into the future of the Queensland Food Industry and is another successful outcome

for Invest Queensland and the Food Industry Development Unit of the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry.

The conference, being organised by the Innovative Foods Centre, will be held at Royal on the Park, corner Alice and Albert Streets Brisbane, from 17-18 September 2008.