



Speech by

**JOHN MICKEL**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

#### **INDUSTRY POLICY**

**Mr MICKEL** (Logan—ALP) (10.38 p.m.): Part of any Government's jobs, jobs, jobs strategy has to be the development of a comprehensive integrated industry policy. The Beattie Government is establishing a State Development Department. It has begun the process on the right foot. In the past there has been a disparate spread of departments all with the task of helping businesses, both large and small.

To its credit, the Borbidge Government set up a separate trade department but at the same time retained a separate business department. I think the member for Burnett performed the task capably, but I think his department was fatally flawed when it simply ignored and then sidelined Loftus Harris, the previous director-general. Loftus Harris is now in Sydney, heading up the State development department of New South Wales. It is pleasing, therefore, that the new department has obtained the services of Mr Ross Rolfe, whom I think is an outstanding appointment.

The economic settings are also important. For example, the tariff reductions we have seen in recent years have benefited Queensland because the State has not had a diverse manufacturing sector. As a result of those tariff reductions, we are now seeing growth and developments in places such as Townsville with Korea Zinc. Of course, the member for Gladstone would know only too well the significant developments that have occurred there.

In primary industry we have seen, without any Government help and certainly without any tariff protection, industries such as cotton advancing significantly. The cotton industry has been an outstanding performer. In fact, it has created jobs in rural and provincial Queensland—at places such as Emerald, Goondiwindi, Dalby, St George and Dirranbandi. How disappointing that the policies that have created these jobs are under threat by One Nation, because Pauline Hanson wants tariff increases——

Time expired.

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