



Speech by

VAUGHAN JOHNSON

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Hansard 6 August 1998

WOOL INDUSTRY

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory—NPA) (7.29 p.m.): Yesterday in this House I referred to the plight of the wool industry not only in this State but also in this nation. I congratulate the Federal Government on the role it took in freezing the wool stockpile for the rest of the 1998-99 season.

The one thing that we have to do is make absolutely certain that we can rebuild this great industry in Queensland. It is pleasing to see the Minister for Primary Industries present in the House. Wool at \$500 to \$600 a bale is certainly not going to be sustainable for woolgrowers. If we are going to rebuild this great industry, we have to see the price of wool go back up to \$1,000 a bale so that we can once again regroup and let the people in the industry, such as pastoral workers, shearers, classers, cooks—the whole lot— become viable again and come back into this great industry to rebuild our western, northern and southern towns.

Certainly, I believe that we in this House can work together to do something about getting the wool prices back to what they were during the 1950s and the late 1980s. I trust that we can work together to make sure that that happens.

Time expired.
