



Speech by

Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard 25 May 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Middle East Trade Mission

Hon. H. PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.03 a.m.), by leave: Last month I had the privilege of leading a trade mission to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Seven exporters representing a range of Queensland rural industries, mainly in the agrifood category, met with key Government and corporate interests and explored trading opportunities and partnerships. The program was put in place over several months by the dedicated new markets Middle East team within the Department of Primary Industries. At every point on this trade mission, we were met with courtesy, enthusiasm and warmth, which enabled us very quickly to form genuine personal and official relationships with our Arab hosts. This also enabled us to conduct our discussions in a frank, open and cordial manner.

The clear message we received while in the Middle East is that the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are very keen to do business with Queensland and that the sooner we take up these opportunities, the better. Potential trade outcomes from this mission have been assessed at many millions of dollars over the next three to five years. If Queensland agribusiness is prepared to follow the lead of the seven members of this trade mission, the benefits to Queensland and their Arabian partners will be enormous and long lasting.

I seek leave to table the remainder of this report. I urge all honourable members to take a good look at the report, because it provides some wonderful information for further trading relationships with the Middle East.

Leave granted.
