



Speech by

Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard 21 July 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cypress Pine Industry

Hon. H. PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.05 a.m.), by leave: This Government is committed to rural Queensland. That commitment is reflected in the Government's approach to the cypress pine industry. This exciting industry generates about \$30m per annum for Queensland. It employs more than 2,000 Queenslanders directly and indirectly.

I have announced that the State Government would offer each mill obtaining sawlogs from the Government a 15-year supply agreement. Under the Borbidge Government, a year-by-year allocation regime operated. Enormous uncertainty prevailed in the industry and, indeed, jobs were lost. The Beattie Government is securing existing jobs and actively promoting job growth in the industry.

I am pleased to announce today that Queensland could soon have two new cypress pine mills. That means new jobs in rural Queensland. Currently a mill is being re-established in Mitchell, after the previous mill was destroyed by fire. The Mitchell mill is expected to be opened by the new owner, NK Collins Industries, later this year.

Also, I can announce today that, following endorsement by the Department of Natural Resources, DPI Forestry will proceed with the sale of 10,000 cubic metres per annum of uncommitted cypress sawlog resources in the Tambo region over 10 years. The sale has the potential for the establishment and capitalisation of a new mill in the Tambo area. The sale will lead to the creation of new long-term jobs in the harvesting and sawmilling industry in rural and regional Queensland. The assessment shows that a mill of similar size to the new mill at Augathella could be established in Tambo. The Augathella mill employs 15 people.

The cypress pine industry is one of the most decentralised timber industries in the world. Cypress pine mills already operate in Inglewood, Millmerran, Cecil Plains, Chinchilla, Miles, Taroom, Wandoan, Injune, Roma, Augathella, Mungallala, Dulacca and Surat. Soon I hope we can add Mitchell and Tambo to that list.
