



Speech by

Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard 10 November 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
Wheat Market Development

Hon. H. PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.06 a.m.), by leave: The State Government is driving new opportunities for Queensland's primary industries. The Government is delivering new science, technology and innovation to enhance our food and fibre production. At the same time, the Government is opening up new markets and strengthening existing trading partnerships for that production.

It gives me great pleasure to announce today that the State Government—through the Department of Primary Industries—is working to open up opportunities for Queensland wheat. The project is targeting the lucrative and largely untapped sponge and dough bread processing markets in North and South East Asia which are currently being serviced by our north American competitors. These markets include Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore with the possibility that, as the pan bread market evolves in China, it could also adopt the sponge and dough process. At this stage, the sponge and dough wheat market in that region requires more than six million tonnes of wheat each year.

DPI is working in partnership with Quality Wheat CRC, BRI Australia and the Grains Research and Development Corporation on this project. Amongst its key aims is to identify key wheat quality characteristics required for bread manufacture by the sponge and dough process in Asia.

Recently, when I was in central Queensland, I launched a new wheat variety called Giles. This variety will open up new opportunities for us in Asia. This variety offers increased yields. Also, the quality of the flour from this variety means that it is very suitable for bread-making and it is also suitable for noodle-making in the Asian market.

In addition, I have announced an extra \$250,000 in funding to advance breeding superior varieties and enhance plant disease research. Unfortunately, the grain industry has endured a very difficult winter season this year. This has followed a very disappointing winter harvest last year.

The groundbreaking project to position our wheat in Asia offers significant potential for Queensland. Indeed, as far as our graingrowers are concerned, it could be bigger and better than sliced bread.
