



Speech by

Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard 10 November 1999

SUGAR INDUSTRY BILL

Hon. H. PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (3.32 p.m.): I would like to make a few comments. First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the representatives of all the industry organisations who helped to draft the Bill. Of course, this Bill is as a result of the industry working with the Government. I would also like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mr John Desmarchelier, who has been up in the gallery continuously for the past whatever number of days it has taken for this Bill to be passed. I am quite sure that he would be very pleased with the final outcome. I would also like to thank all the industry leaders, such as Harry Bonanno, Graham Davies and Ron Verri, who set the policy in the working party. I would also like to thank my backbench committee. I would like to single out in particular Warren Pitt, who has certainly consulted widely with growers and millers and reported their concerns back to me. A number of amendments that the Government moved were as a direct result of our backbench committee members being out there doing the work.

I want to support the effort of the global alliance for sugar trade reform in Seattle. I believe that is very, very important, simply because the global sugar markets need to be freed up. I want to place on the record of this House that I am very disappointed that the US has reduced its imports of Australian sugar. However, I believe that this Bill sets the scene for a more competitive, viable industry.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Dr Alan Neill and all of his staff in the Department of Primary Industries and an adviser from my office, Paul Martin, for all the work that they have put together in getting me organised and also the briefings that they have given to the Opposition. I believe that their efforts have been well rewarded because, finally, we have seen this Bill pass through the House. With those few words, I would like to thank the Opposition as well for their participation in the debate.
