



Speech by

**Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK**

**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Hansard 26 November 1999

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Oyster Exports to Japan**

**Hon. H. PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (9.46 a.m.), by leave: Our Government is committed to advancing Queensland's food and fibre to the world. Our Government is building on existing trading partnerships and developing new opportunities in new markets. I can inform the House that we are delivering on this commitment. I can announce to the House today that our Government has been successful in opening up the lucrative Japanese market for Queensland oysters. This will be the first time that Queensland oysters will be exported to Japan. Indeed, it will be the first time that Australian Sydney rock oysters will be exported to Japan. It is potentially a new multimillion-dollar market for Queensland.

The first shipment of Queensland oysters is expected to arrive in Japan early in the new year. Japanese authorities have approved the importation of Sydney rock oysters from the Moreton Island growing area after the Department of Primary Industries sought an approved classification from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service. In consultation with industry, the department plans to extend the growing area in Queensland able to export to Japan. I inform the House that all of this is happening in the electorate of the conscientious and popular member for Redcliffe, who, I understand, has been kept pretty well informed by the Department of Primary Industries.

A critical factor in the approval by Japan's Ministry of Health and Welfare was the monitoring program of the DPI and the Queensland oyster growers. In 1993, the Queensland Shellfish Water Assurance Monitoring Program started and DPI staff have undertaken seawater and oyster tissue sampling. This work will continue to maintain this export classification.

An international on-line fish news service reported yesterday on this development. It said—

"Sydney's Rock Oyster boasts a unique flavour. It is cultured in the unpolluted sea area of Queensland, which is very clean and without any contamination or virus."

The report then says that a prospective importer was "hoping to offer Japanese consumers the unique experience, taste and quality of the original Australian oyster and believes the new import will be a hit with demanding Japanese consumers." Earlier this year we had the disgraceful yet unsuccessful attempt from New South Wales to take our national oyster shucking championships. Now, Sydney rock oysters produced here in Queensland, not New South Wales, have won market access to Japan. With this Government's commitment to developing new opportunities for Queensland food and fibre, the world is now our oyster.

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