



Speech by
Hon. HENRY PALASZCZUK

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard 1 December 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Hardwood Plantations

Hon. H. PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Primary Industries) (10.12 a.m.), by leave: Under the historic South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement signed by the State Government, the timber industry and conservationists last September, the Government is growing jobs, protecting regional communities and preserving south-east Queensland's native forests. The RFA provides the blueprint for the hardwood timber industry's move from a native forest base to a plantation base over the next 25 years.

Mr BEANLAND: I rise to a point of order. I am under the impression that this matter is before the House.

Mr SPEAKER: No, it is not. There is no point of order.

Mr PALASZCZUK: Under the agreement, the Government announced its intention to plant 10 million trees and establish over 5,000 hectares of plantations. This is what the member for Indooroopilly is not interested in hearing. I can announce to the House today that expressions of interest have been called for by the Department of Primary Industries, Forestry for the propagation of up to half a million hardwood seedlings required for the planting next year. The planting will be in an area of 1,000 hectares. It is proposed that the seedlings are to be planted at Miriam Vale, in a region from Caboolture to Bundaberg, at Kilcoy, and in the Lockyer and Brisbane Valleys. The seedlings to be propagated are eucalypt species, including blackbutt, gympie, messmate, spotted gum, white gum and a rose gum hybrid. Not only will this initiative provide a secure future for Queensland's hardwood industry, it will also stimulate growth in the nursery industry. There are already some 700 hectares of hardwood plantations on private land in south-east Queensland. In addition, the Government is progressing hardwood research valued at \$8m.

This Government has delivered a win-win for the timber industry workers, their dependent communities and the environment with the resolution to the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement.
