



Speech by

Hon. J. ELDER

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Future Group

Hon. J. P. ELDER (Capalaba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade) (9.51 a.m.), by leave: As Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade, I take great interest in the progress of Queensland companies. Recently I had the pleasure to open Maroochydore based computer and services firm the Future Group's 10th State office right here in Brisbane. The reason that the opening caught my interest was the way in which this company has grown and developed. Some may say that the development of Future was unconventional. Well, in some respects that is true because the company concentrated on building its regional presence before embarking to the capital cities.

Future and its managing director, Tony Pynsent, took the conscious decision to open in regional Queensland and get its systems right before tackling the State's capital. Now the company is setting its sights on southern markets. Once again, it will follow the successful formula—that is, moving into provincial areas. The company is planning to establish operations in northern New South Wales at Lismore and Coffs Harbour before moving to Canberra. Tony Pynsent then aims to move into regional Victoria and South Australia before looking at the big population centres of Sydney and Melbourne.

Since it started back in 1987, the Future Group now employs more than 160 Queenslanders and staffing levels are expected to double in the next three years. It should also be noted that, of the staff total, more than 60 have been through traineeship opportunities in such areas as information technology, computer assembly and office administration and small business. The Future Group manufactures, services and sells its own Future brand of computer and file servers, as well as Toshiba and Océ digital photocopiers, and manages its network installations.

The company's growth has not gone unnoticed by this Government or the business world. For the last three years, Future has been rated as one of Australia's fastest growing private companies by the respected publication *Business Review Weekly*. Recently, Mr Pynsent won the award for Owner/Operator and Manager of the Year for the Sunshine Coast and for management innovation—that is, he won the Management Innovation Medal from the Australian Institute of Management. The company's initial success was largely due to its ability to win Government tenders. Apart from Government business, its client list is enviable—the Hyatt Regency, Sun Metals, TAFE Queensland, accounting firm KPMG, Novotel Twin Waters, Channel Seven and whitegoods major Kleenmaid, just to name a few.

Future is a company that I and the Government will continue to take a keen interest in. Not only is it high tech, innovative and regionally focused; it is committed to growth, employment and training. It is the sort of company which is creating jobs in this State in regional Queensland and now in Brisbane. We are keen to work with them and continue to help with their growth.
