



Speech by

JOHN MICKEL

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Hansard 26 August 1999

OLIVE INDUSTRY

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (7.18 p.m.): Tonight I bring some heart and some good news to the people of the Lockyer and south-west Queensland with a positive story about the initiatives that are being undertaken in rural Queensland. A few weeks ago, the member for Bulimba and I had the pleasure of meeting with the olive growers in those districts, where some great things are happening for Queensland.

For example, near Millmerran, a company called Australian Olives is currently planting 63,000 trees—this number will climb to 220,000 trees—on a 7,000 hectare property which formerly was a sheep property employing only two people. Those two people have now become 55 people—the number of people engaged in growing olives in that district. Further south in the Inglewood district on the Barkworth property there are currently 150,000 olive trees being planted, and 55 people are now employed in that area.

Tonight, I congratulate Bob Tait and Vince Dobinson, the president and secretary respectively of the Olive Growers Association. I also mention the Lockyer district, because olive seedlings are being propagated there through a firm called Olives Australia, which currently employs 75 people. I congratulate Ray Archer and his wife, who are currently supplying 80% of the trees for Australian production, on their work.

The other day I read that an olive glut was predicted. Australia needs 3 billion olive trees to be self-sufficient. If the number reaches 10 billion, then similar to the wine industry it will become a major exporting industry. For those interested in olive production, I point out that an olive information day will be held at Ray Archer's place on Sunday, 12 September.

Time expired.
