



Speech by

KAREN STRUTHERS

MEMBER FOR ARCHERFIELD

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ACACIA RIDGE JOBS BOOST

Ms STRUTHERS (Archerfield—ALP) (11.05 p.m.): This week, I felt like I had won Gold Lotto. Under the Queensland Industry Development Scheme, industries in an area that I value dearly—Acacia Ridge and Archerfield; the economic hubs of south-east Queensland—have received a major financial boost. I say "economic hubs" as Acacia Ridge alone produces 10% of Brisbane's economic product. This State Government support of local industry initiatives will lead to jobs, jobs and more jobs in my area.

Some of the industries whose innovative ideas are being fertilised by QIDS include Agen Biomedical Limited, which was given \$80,000 to develop a prototype packaging machine; Palmer Tube Mills, \$50,000 to move into e-commerce, from which 20 new jobs are expected; Galilco Food Processors, \$30,000 to introduce new long-life vacuum-sealed packaging—that must be to keep the odour in for the garlic products—and the Latex Mattress Foam Centre, \$14,000 to market in Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. These are just some of the initiatives that were funded.

This injection of funds could not happen at a better time. I have initiated an Into Work project to support unemployed, mature-aged workers in Acacia Ridge. The men and women involved in this project now have a stronger chance of finding work. These local companies are being given support by this Government to expand. My out-of-work friends may soon feel like they, too, have won Gold Lotto.
