



Speech by

**Hon. KEN HAYWARD**

**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

---

Hansard 25 March 1999

**CYPRESS INDUSTRY, WESTERN QUEENSLAND**

**Hon. K. W. HAYWARD** (Kallangur—ALP) (6.47 p.m.): It is a great pleasure to rise in the Parliament tonight to support the amended motion moved by the Honourable Minister for Primary Industries. I wish to quote the amended motion. It reads—

"This Parliament endorses the State Government's commitment to deliver certainty and security to the Queensland cypress pine industry and further endorses the Government's commitment to jobs in rural and regional Queensland."

Could a motion that comes to this Parliament be any clearer about a Government's commitment to providing jobs in rural and regional Queensland—specifically through the continuation of the cypress pine industry?

What we need to do is contrast the positive amendment that the Government has moved with the negative, carping, backward-looking motion that was moved by the spokesman for One Nation, which looks towards doing nothing—they just sit there and hope that things will improve. The reality is that we have to work hard to create jobs, to develop the industry and promote the industry into the export market. The State Government is absolutely committed to growing the cypress pine industry, because it creates many jobs in rural Queensland. Although I did not agree with everything that the member for Keppel said, he made a point when he said that it is the lifeblood of many towns and districts. It is an extremely valuable industry.

The amendment to the motion that was moved by the Primary Industries Minister is extremely important, because it looks forward to the creation of jobs and the development of the forestry industry. One Nation's motion is about stopping the industry where it now stands and holding the fort. That is simply not good enough. We cannot survive as a State or as a nation if we do nothing. We have to create new exports for Queensland. The challenge for us all is to ensure that this industry does not decline, that we are able to create certainty for the people who live in those regional towns and work in those industries and, through that security, maintain the fabric of those rural and country towns.

Queensland's forestry industry contributes more than \$1.7 billion to revenue annually and employs some 17,000 Queenslanders. That goes to show that a substantial part of the Queensland economy is involved in the timber industry. The industry's quality products are in great demand, and not just domestically. There is an increasing interest in export markets, where the projected global timber shortfalls will provide growth opportunity. That is the strength of the amendment to the motion that was moved by the Primary Industries Minister. The amendment looks towards the development of the export industry. It is not about standing still and somehow hoping that nothing is going to happen.

As I think was said tonight, the amendment to the motion is not about a mickey mouse solution—the sort of solution that was suggested by One Nation. That is simply not a solution. We have to look forward and maintain and further develop this industry for those rural and regional parts of Queensland.

In relation to cypress pine, we have to consider a number of key points when projecting its possible export potential. As we all know, already cypress pine has broken into several key markets. In Queensland, more than 170,000 cubic metres of cypress pine is milled each year and almost half of that is sold either interstate or overseas, including to the United States and Japan. Secondly, and importantly, the quality of our cypress pine is attracting significant international interest. That is mainly due to the fact that cypress pine is very durable. Its natural resistance to disease and pests, especially

termites, is well recognised in the marketplace. For instance, it was interesting to find out recently that the export potential of Queensland's cypress pine is expanding, particularly in Japan.

Time expired.

---