



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 15 September 1999

CEDAR HILL ORCHIDS PTY LTD

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (10.14 a.m.): On 31 August I had the privilege of attending the Sunshine Coast Export Excellence Awards presentation. The winner of the region's exporter of the year award was a local company from Palmwoods. This company has grown from three employees to more than 65 staff and it is estimated that it will grow to 140 staff in the next few years. The company employs three research scientists. I have been informed that approximately 99.7% of its total sales are export generated and all products have a quality guarantee.

Over recent months, I have heard a lot of derogatory comments made about people who earn their income by collecting native flowers and foliage. The winner of the Sunshine Coast Export Excellence Award for 1999 was Cedar Hill Orchids Pty Ltd, the directors of which are Wayne Bennett, Mark Irwin and Christopher Doane. The company's primary business is supplying the international market with Queensland's unique but common native flowers and foliage.

In speaking on this matter today, I highlight that the words "jobs" and "job creation" have been used readily by members of the Government and the Opposition since the State election last year. I believe that Cedar Hill Orchids Pty Ltd is leading the way in my region in creating new job opportunities for many people who were previously unemployed or seeking to change their employment. I urge the Government and the Opposition to recognise, support and encourage these real new job opportunities being created by this new clean industry in my region.

I also place on record my support and appreciation of the excellent work performed by Graham Newton, the director of the State Development Centre on the Sunshine Coast, his staff, the sponsors of the award and, most importantly, the regional support received from Maroochy Mayor Don Cully, Noosa Mayor Bob Abbot and Caloundra Mayor Des Dwyer.
