



Speech by
**Mrs NITA
CUNNINGHAM**

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Hansard 20 July 2000

BUNDABERG INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (Bundaberg— ALP) (10.10 a.m.): My electorate of Bundaberg had a major boost to its drive for jobs with the recent launch by the Deputy Premier, Jim Elder, of the proposed food precinct and a new Bundaberg industrial park to be established on the old abattoir site. This proposal will take advantage of all of our food industries—the enormous fruit and vegetable industry throughout the district, our fishing industry, soft drink manufacturer and, of course, our rum and other food industries— and has the potential to turn the negative closure of our abattoir by the previous Government in 1997, resulting in the loss of all 25 jobs, into a positive project that can be a hive of industry with the opportunity of hundreds of new jobs.

I strongly believe that our horticultural industries in Bundaberg have a great future. With the establishment of this site, with the enthusiasm of associated industries, with shared vision and confidence, with the \$5.4m funding commitment by this Government, with the continued support of the Department of State Development working together with the Bundaberg City Council, which has also contributed \$2m towards this project, with the support of DPI and the Tourism and Development Board and building on the work of positive groups such as the Burnett Food Alliance and Oz Exports, this project has enormous potential for growth. It can clearly identify our region as the major centre for food industries, and this site can become the home of Bundaberg's food industries.

This project gives Bundaberg the best opportunity we have had for a long time for industrial growth and new jobs. I am very pleased to be chairing a committee to progress the project. I have already had meetings with major proponents, and enormous interest is being shown in the project. I thank the Minister for State Development for his continued support.
