



Speech by

**Hon. T. McGRADY**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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Hansard 18 July 2000

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**Engineering Excellence Awards**

**Hon. T. McGRADY** (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development) (9.51 a.m.), by leave: I bring to the attention of the House the fact that two Queensland projects in the north-west minerals province have recently won prestigious awards at the Institution of Engineers Queensland Division 2000 Engineering Awards. The companies are WMC Fertilisers Pty Ltd and the Pasminco Century project. WMC received an Engineering Excellence Award in the resource development category. WMC's world-class Queensland fertiliser operation commenced production of ammonium phosphate fertiliser in December 1999 and is set to supply up to 40% of its annual production to Asia and the Pacific rim, as well as replacing a large amount of imported fertiliser in Queensland. With an annual output capacity of one million tonnes of ammonium phosphate fertiliser, the operation will deliver significant economic benefits to Queensland and indeed Australia, generating an estimated \$300m through export sales and import replacement.

The philosophy and practice behind the development has been to incorporate world's best practice in design, construction and operational techniques. The management of this massive development program has been hailed already as an outstanding achievement and one that sets new benchmarks in Australian engineering design and construction. For the information of members, more than 7,000 people were directly employed in Mount Isa, Phosphate Hill and Townsville during the construction phase and today there are more than 250 permanent employees at the Phosphate Hill site. The Queensland fertiliser operations will indirectly contribute approximately \$60m to the people of Queensland in taxes, royalties and payments over the next 20 years.

The other major award winner was Pasminco for the Century mine project. Pasminco received an Engineering Excellence Award in the category of project management. It also received a high commendation in the product category for the purpose-built transfer vessel MV Wunma used for the Century mine project. During the construction of the massive Century mine project, 3,000 people were directly employed and 3,500 were indirectly employed. Currently, over 500 people are employed at the mine, including 120 local Aboriginal employees and a further 20 Aboriginal people employed through four local businesses operating at the site. I add that Century mine also recently received a NAIDOC award as a Queensland project which has significantly contributed to indigenous employment. I commend these companies for their excellent efforts in producing such good results in terms of jobs and benefits for Queenslanders, as well as engineering excellence.

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