



Speech by

DON LIVINGSTONE

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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BORAL HANCOCK PLYWOOD

Mr LIVINGSTONE (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.26 p.m.): I take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of Boral Hancock Plywood in Ipswich in being certified as an accredited supplier of veneer and plywood products to Japan. The initiative for gaining Australian forest products access into Japan lies with the Brisbane-based Plywood Association of Australia. This association is a registered foreign certifying organisation and is authorised to act as agent for the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries. The Plywood Association of Australia sought and gained approval for Boral Hancock Plywood to be recognised as the first plywood operation in Australasia to meet the exacting Japanese agricultural standards. Australia is only the second country in the world to gain accreditation to supply plywood products that are certified to strict Japanese agricultural standards into Japan via a registered foreign certifying organisation.

This gives Queensland a distinct trade advantage over countries who are not accredited as the time and expense incurred at the point of inspection is removed. This has been received with great interest in Japan. It promises to be a milestone in regional business development. The link with such a strong Asian economy will undoubtedly have positive employment prospects in the Ipswich area and rural Queensland where the resource is managed. Not only is this good news for the local economy, but it is a major achievement for Boral Hancock Plywood, which has had more than its share of ups and downs over the past few years.

The company has been located on the same site at North Ipswich for 130 years. Prior to its purchase by Boral in 1995, the company had been run by six generations of the Hancock family. Hancock Plywood has been severely affected by various disasters—fire in 1895 and 1935 and floods in 1893 and 1974. Plywood manufacture commenced in 1935 and has continued through to the present day. Other ventures were undertaken, but today the only operation remaining is the Ipswich site where plywood is manufactured for sale to distributors throughout Australia and to international markets. Staff numbers rose to 220, but then fell to 170 as a result of the after effects of the GST. The current staffing level is 190.

The timber resource required to manufacture plywood is obtained from various locations throughout south-east Queensland. The company utilises two species of timber, namely hoop pine and slash pine. All timber is purchased from pine plantations and is a renewable resource. The annual expectation for export to Japan as a result of the Japanese agricultural standard certification is \$5 million. This is an excellent result for this long-established company and Boral Hancock Plywood is to be congratulated on this significant achievement. Over the years there has been a lot of speculation in relation to this company at Ipswich. It was felt that it might not make it over the years. However, the company has been very—

Time expired.