



Speech by

CHRIS FOLEY

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Hansard 16 October 2003

WIDE BAY GROUP LINEN SERVICE

Mr CHRIS FOLEY (Maryborough—Ind) (7.02 p.m.): If Queensland is the Smart State, then Maryborough is indeed the smart city. I had the rare privilege a couple of months ago of attending a tour of the Wide Bay Group Linen Service. What a fantastic facility it is. The Wide Bay Group Linen Service was commissioned in 1996 at a capital cost of \$6 million and commenced processing for the Sunshine Coast Health Service District in 1999 to bring the complement of health service districts serviced to five. The service currently provides linen services for 34 hospitals and nursing homes, oral health and the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Wide Bay Group Linen Service employs 45 full-time equivalent staff for its processing plant at Moonaboola Estate in Maryborough, with vehicles stationed at Bundaberg, Maryborough and Nambour. Service output is a staggering 40,000 kilograms per five-day week, utilising a cost recovery model with an annual turnover of approximately \$3 million. When I spoke to the director of Wide Bay Group Linen Service, he told me that the service does not receive any budget appropriation and is entirely funded on a user pays basis. That would be a refreshing change to any government seeking to run efficiency in its particular portfolios.

Wide Bay Group Linen Service has a sterile linen department which provides sterile theatre products direct to operating theatres. This was the first such in-house facility actually commissioned by Queensland Health. I had the privilege of walking fairly close to the line there to see the process used for rejecting unsterile garments.

The current charges for linen from the Wide Bay Group Linen Service are regularly the most efficient and cost-effective in the whole Queensland public health sector. The service employs state-of-the-art technology and processing, including energy and environmental best practice models which are linked by modem to international suppliers and manufacturers for benchmarking purposes.

It is a phenomenal facility. The technology is just stunning. The thing that impressed me most of all with this particular place was the fact that the staff really take incredible pride in the output and the efficiency of the service. There is a competition to do things well, timely and in a cost-efficient manner. They should be congratulated.