



Speech by

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard 22 April 2004

TICOR CHEMICAL CO., GLADSTONE

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (6.06 p.m.): Sadly, an announcement was made yesterday that Ticor Chemical Co., which operates a plant in Gladstone, will be closing. The company had been endeavouring to sell the chemical plant as a going concern, but there were no successful offers. The plant employs 60 people. So over the next three to four months, as the plant closes in an orderly manner, 60 people who live in the Gladstone-Calliope area will be displaced and will be looking for work. To all those employees, I pass on the best wishes of everybody in the Gladstone region. Their families can be assured that we have a genuine concern for their welfare and hope that they will be quickly re-employed.

Mr Rick Benjamin advised me of the proposal. As a local resident, he was genuinely upset at the prospect and displayed a genuine concern for all those working at the plant. All responsibilities to employees and all of their entitlements are secure, and I believe to that extent the company has acted very responsibly. The employees will be offered full job transition and support services that will assist them as much as possible to be re-employed. It is a tragedy for our region—I think for any area—when a business decides to close its doors. Fortunately in this instance, as I have already said, staff will receive all of their entitlements. There will be no fighting and no need for concern in that area. The plant will close down over the next three to four months in an orderly manner.

I do not believe this reflects on any of the other businesses in the area. It was a decision that was made by the management of the company. The chemical side of its business was not its core interest. On that basis, and with the commercial pressures world wide and a glut in demand for its chemical—it is a producer of a single chemical, sodium cyanide—the company's competitiveness over time was marginal and then less than marginal.

We have another chemical plant—ICI—in the same area in the Calliope shire. It is my understanding that this reflects in no way negatively on it. They are two separate operations with different spreads in terms of their business interests and their chemical processes. To all of those who are employed at Ticor, please be assured that we are thinking of you. I thank Rick Benjamin for his care for all of his employees and for the sensitive way in which this very difficult news was passed on to them. I wish everyone at Ticor every success in finding early alternative employment and wish them the very best for the future.