



Speech by

**Mike Horan**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

Hansard Wednesday, 16 June 2004

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## **IMPORTS, ASSESSMENT PANELS**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.28 a.m.): Yesterday the ignorance and incompetence of the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries was fully revealed in this House. Asked a question about one of the most important subjects that exist at the moment, about the assessment panels for the importation of bananas, apples and pork, he did not have a clue. He had to rush outside and ring up his senior media adviser to get the answer and come back and slip it in a dorothy dixer later on. His department has had a budget cut. Only an incompetent minister like that on this most important issue of Queenslanders being on assessment panels for the importation of bananas, apples and pork would oversee and admit the fact that they had only one Queenslanders on one of those panels.

We need to have scientists on these panels with regards the importation of apples who know about Stanthorpe, who know about the pathways through the horticultural industry of Queensland and who understand the unique problems of our apple industry in Queensland, but there is not one single Queenslanders on that panel because the minister is disinterested, does not know and could not care. Exactly the same thing applies to the pork industry throughout the Darling Downs, the Burnett and north Queensland. Once again, the minister makes soothing, patronising noises all the time about the federal government and blames everybody else, but incompetence and disinterest reside with him.

Primary industries and fishing in Queensland deserves someone with a bit of ability and a bit of talent, not someone who is so low on the pecking order of the cabinet that he even gets his budget cut in a year when there is a massive budget surplus.

Time expired.