



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 21 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Exports, Water Worldwide

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.02 a.m.): While we are talking about trade opportunities, I want to highlight what I believe is real entrepreneurial flair, particularly in relation to what a small business person can do. Queensland bottled spring water is now set to feature in London superdepartment store Harvey Nichols. This story illustrates what Queensland businesses can do. Some members may be familiar with the store from the popular TV show *Absolutely Fabulous*. I know the Leader of the House would be. She is the Minister for the Arts; one would expect that.

Ms Bligh interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: Yes, darling. This is one Harvey Nics beverage that Patsy and Eddy I am sure will not be imbibing. It is far too pure and healthy. Water Worldwide, a proud Queensland company, sources its product, Australian Outback Spring Water, from the world heritage rainforest at Mena Creek near Innisfail. Its owner and managing director, Perry Grewar, accompanied me on the trade mission, and as a result of our efforts the company has successfully negotiated the sale of 500 millilitre, 600 millilitre and 1.5 litre bottles of water to the London retailer.

We organised to meet the buyers before their normal opening hours and held discussions at the store restaurant overlooking Knightsbridge. Mr Grewar used a typically Australian rainwater tank stand and windmill display in the London promotion and it captured the attention of the Harvey Nichols buyers. Britain's annual Farnborough air show has also approached Mr Grewar about a sponsorship and supply deal for his water. Water Worldwide production has been specifically designed for the export market and is bar-coded to scan anywhere in the world. It has also received inquiries from a large Japanese organisation.

Here is someone who had the get-up-and-go to come not only to the trade mission but we helped open the door for him, and now he has access to the English market—and good luck for him. I seek leave to have the remainder of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In a joint venture with another Queensland company, Rainfarms Australia, it produces pristine and sweet water products and will soon be marketing rainwater that it also collects at the Mena Creek site.

The high altitude springs at Mena Creek provide superb Queensland water and the company has a packaging facility on site.

The head office and administration building is in Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast and they currently employ four people in Mooloolaba and 15 at Mena Creek.

The company sells bulk packs at 116 Woolworths' stores in Queensland and learned yesterday that the existing range will be extended to single bottles.

Water Worldwide's success epitomises the importance of overseas trade missions and state government support for Queensland companies.

I congratulate Perry Grewar and his company on this fantastic achievement.