



Speech by

Peter Lawlor

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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4TH PAN PACIFIC PORK EXPO

Mr LAWLOR (Southport—ALP) (9.03 pm): It gave me great pleasure to represent the minister for primary industries, Tim Mulherin, and officially open the 4th Pan Pacific Pork Expo last Friday at the Gold Coast Convention Centre. The expo offered a unique opportunity for people from the Pacific countries and diversified groups involved in the pork industry—from producers to scientists—to come together and discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the industry and arrive at solutions and ways forward that account for the varying needs of each group.

The pork industry is critical to the Queensland economy. The gross value of farm gate production is about \$220 million. Continuing market pressures both domestically and overseas mean that pork based enterprises must remain at the cutting edge to survive and be profitable. Threats to the Australian industry from exotic disease incursions remain high, and vigilance is required by all industry participants to prevent the enormous damage that these diseases can cause. More frequent air travel and other rapid transport from a wide range of countries can mean that a disease outbreak overseas can very suddenly be on our doorstep threatening our very own industries, shaking consumer confidence and wiping out lucrative domestic and international markets and market share.

It is vitally important that the industry adopt practices and technology such as traceability systems that prevent the arrival or spread of these diseases. The expo gave the participants the opportunity to learn of the latest Australian and overseas leading edge research and development, groundbreaking industry practices and new technologies in the area of biosecurity and in other priority areas for this industry, such as new improved feeds.

This was a very successful event. Like all such events, it would not have been possible without the support of sponsors. I thank the many sponsors who supported the pork expo, particularly the major sponsors of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Qantas Freight and *Australian Pork Newspaper*. I also congratulate Mr Enso Allara, Chairman of Australian Pork; Dr Rob van Barneveld, the Chairman of Pan Pacific Pork Expo; Mr Andrew Spencer, from Australian Pork Ltd; Dr Roger Campbell, CEO of Pork CRC; and Mr Wayne Bradshaw, Vice-Chairman of Pan Pacific Pork Expo. I look forward to seeing them all back on the Gold Coast for the 2008 pork expo.