



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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TILT TRAIN ACCIDENT; UNITED BONDED FABRICS

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (6.06 pm): I commence tonight by extending my heartfelt sympathies to those who have been affected by today's tragic tilt train accident north of Ingham.

In the context of the recent global economic turmoil and competition from low-cost manufacturers, this afternoon I had the pleasure to represent the Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry, the Hon. Desley Boyle MP, at the official opening of a state-of-the-art polyester plant that is operated by United Bonded Fabrics Pty Ltd in Kedron. This polyester plant is indeed one of the largest in Australia. It is very good to see this commitment to manufacturing in the northern suburbs of Brisbane on a site that has historically been associated with textile manufacturing for very many years.

Manufacturing is a key contributor to Queensland's prosperity. The manufacturing industry in Queensland is valued at \$17 billion annually and employs more than 192,000 people. The Bligh government particularly recognises the importance of manufacturing to the Queensland economy. It is really great to see United Bonded Fabrics Pty Ltd further expanding its national operations with this new plant, which is right in the heart of Brisbane's north side.

Mr Bombolas: In your electorate.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Absolutely—in the electorate of Stafford. It is well known that United Bonded Fabrics has been operating in Kedron since 1961. It produces a range of diverse products—textiles, geotextiles and insulation products. United Bonded Fabrics took over the operations of the Kedron mill, which had been operating on that site since June 1948 when it opened as Bruce Pie Industries—a name that is not unknown to this House since Bruce Pie was the member for Windsor and the first leader of the Queensland People's Party, the forerunner to the Liberal Party in this place. Bruce Pie was the owner of that important business, which provided a lot of employment for people on the north side.

This new facility extends the massive range of products that are produced on that site for insulation, air-conditioning filtration, bonded wadding for the apparel industry, as well as the traditional carpet underfelt, which has been the mainstay of the business for a very long time, certainly since United Bonded Fabrics took over the facility.

Environmental impacts have been minimised with this new polyester plant. Up to 85 per cent of the products are made from recycled bottle fibres. The ozone-depleting potentials, or volatile organic compounds, are not used in the production.

Time expired.