




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Nicholls**

**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Queensland Economy**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.09 pm): Queensland is undoubtedly an exporting state, and our exporters are keen to be recognised across Queensland and across the nation. I am pleased to inform the House that this year 65 Queensland companies have nominated for the Premier's Export Awards—a 12 per cent increase on last year. These companies are contributing a huge amount to our state, and it is important that we acknowledge their contribution to the state's economic growth and our prosperity here at home.

Last financial year merchandised exports contributed more than \$44 billion to the state's economy. In 1992, just over two decades ago, that figure was just \$11 billion—one-quarter of today's total. So we have certainly come a long way in two decades. A large part of the credit for Queensland's growth has to go to these dedicated and motivated exporting businesses.

The Newman government is determined to provide as much support as possible to these businesses. That is why in November last year we announced a comprehensive review of the operation of Trade and Investment Queensland, led by international businessman Geoffrey Thomas and former trade minister John Mickel. That is why, as recommended by those two highly respected individuals in their review, the Newman government committed to establishing Trade and Investment Queensland as a statutory authority with its own board to enhance its capabilities. This is all about freeing Trade and Investment Queensland from the confines of the departmental process and allowing the organisation to focus on its core role of assisting Queensland businesses and attracting investment.

Since 1990 the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards have been recognising the work of our foresighted and hardworking exporters. Applications for this year's export awards have now closed and the awards ceremony, hosted by the honourable the Premier, will be held on 24 October. Last year's winners came from all across the state and a range of industries. The 2012 Queensland Exporter of the Year Award went to NOJA Power, a company which manufactures low- and medium-voltage switchgear products right here in Brisbane for export to every continent in the world—to countries from Brazil to Russia.

Queensland's exporting businesses are also widely recognised as the best performing in Australia. This is reflected by the fact that Queensland companies dominated last year's Australian Export Awards, taking out five of the 13 categories. The Australian Exporter of the Year Award went to PWR Performance Products, based at Yatala—a company that designs and sells cooling systems to racing markets around the world. PWR has supplied products to winning NASCAR, IndyCar and Formula 1 race teams. This was the third time in four years that a Queensland company had been awarded the Australian Exporter of the Year Award.

Earlier this year, in this very place, I also congratulated Queensland architect Noel Robinson for collecting a coveted Australian Export Heroes Award. Noel's achievements over a 40-year career are

legendary. He has delivered his brand of innovative and original design to the Middle East, South-East Asia, Japan, Korea, the United States and Europe. He is yet another example of a Queenslander making their mark on the world stage.

As always, I am looking forward to this year's Premier of Queensland's Export Awards—a great night enjoyed by all those who attend. There can be no doubt: Queensland is the best state in Australia to invest, employ and grow, and the strength and success of our exporters is testament to their confidence in this state and this government.