Speech By

Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

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ADJOURNMENT

Bioproton

Mr RUSSO (Sunnybank—ALP) (12.36 am): I rise tonight to speak of a business in my electorate of Sunnybank that is truly demonstrating innovation in its product development. I recently joined with the Minister for Innovation, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, for the official opening of the new bioprocess laboratory and granulation facility for Acacia Ridge based company Bioproton Pty Ltd. This expansion was funded through a grant from our government's $180 million Advance Queensland initiative and will allow Bioproton to further position themselves as global leaders in this field.

A leading biotechnology company, Bioproton specialises in the development, manufacturing and marketing of high-quality feed enzyme supplements for livestock. It is a small business that also has the gender balance right, with 50 per cent of the 16 employees being male and 50 per cent female. It has a global marketing and distribution network covering countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Russia, the Middle East and the Americas. Founded and initially established in Finland in 1984, the company was relocated to Queensland in 1993. When talking with the staff I could appreciate that they were passionate about the work they were doing and how it benefits both the economy and the environment.

I had the pleasure of meeting the managers, the production team, the lab technicians, the engineers and the research officer. On our tour of the facility, the minister and I were informed of the innovative manner in which Bioproton operates to meet the high demand in the global agriculture sector. The feed enzyme supplement industry has significant potential to boost productivity in farming practices, which can be utilised to meet the food demands of future generations. The feed is also designed to minimise the negative environmental impact of the agriculture industry and to promote sustainable farming practices. Additionally, livestock that have been fed Bioproton's enzyme supplements tend to reduce the overabundance of nutrients in local water ecosystems.

Bioproton is at the forefront of innovation in this industry, having worked extensively in conjunction with both the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology. These knowledge transfer partnerships have enabled Bioproton to develop new, specialised enzymes and microbial production strains.