




Speech By
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Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

ADJOURNMENT

Capricorn Sandstone Quarries

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.16 pm): Recently I had the pleasure of visiting Capricorn Sandstone Quarries, situated on Power Station Road at Stanwell, about 25 kilometres west of Rockhampton. It has won a number of awards over the years. Last year it was the winner of the Capricornia Business Awards 'Best National/International Exporter of Local Products & Services'. The award recognises success in exporting goods or services at a national or international level while simultaneously promoting the Capricorn region.

The quarry is one of the largest dimensional sandstone quarries in Australia, uniquely producing landscape sandstone through to restoration grade sandstone in a variety of colours. The quarry sits on 70 hectares and has approximately seven million cubic metres of sandstone. The family owned business has over 50 years combined experience in sandstone quarrying, processing and manufacturing and has developed quarries in New South Wales and Western Australia.

The Stanwell quarry cut stone for many fine buildings in the 1800s and early 1900s. Those buildings remain solid today—a testament to the quarry's sandstone quality and durability. The quarry was revived by Roy Gough in 1994. Now his son, Reece, runs the business and has expanded into the sandstone export market. Reece employs about 15 staff on a full-time basis. To me, it seems to be a company that really invests in its staff. It is reflective in that it does not have much staff turnover and recently had one staff member retire after working for the company for over 20 years. I think it would be a very hard job in the Central Queensland heat. Staff have access to good training, modern equipment and large shade structures to work under.

The quarry supplies beautiful Capricorn Buff and Heritage Rose for restoration projects across Australia. This very sandstone has been used right here in Parliament House since 1996 for the repair work done by Building and Asset Services staff. What an excellent job they do here and across the state. I have to mention one of their excellent employees, stonemason Dave Thurlow, a third-generation stonemason. He now has his son Mitchell following in his footsteps. How good is that?

How wonderful it was to visit this amazing business that has continued to grow and is now exporting all over Australia and around the world. I congratulate Reece Gough and his business manager for their vision and expertise.

(Time expired)