




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Frucor Suntory; Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.41 pm): Boosting local jobs is something I have always been passionate about and that is why it has been so exciting to see big-name companies establish themselves in Ipswich over the past several years. Last Thursday it was Frucor Suntory's time to come to Ipswich to kickstart work on their new beverage manufacturing facility at Swanbank's New-Gen Business Park in the electorate of my colleague, the member for Bundamba. Frucor Suntory is the Oceania subsidiary of international Japanese beverage manufacturer, Suntory Group. I joined Queensland Treasurer Cameron Dick and assistant treasurer Charis Mullen at the Swanbank site last Thursday to turn the first sod and inspect early construction works.

Frucor Suntory will be a major boost for Ipswich's local economy. It will support up to 450 jobs during the construction and installation phases and 100 long-term jobs when the facility starts operating in 2024. When it opens, it will produce up to 20 million cases of drinks each year with capacity to scale up further.

I am excited to see our city increase our manufacturing capacity. We are growing in value as a desired location for local and global investors, thanks to our skilled workforce, our proximity to road and rail infrastructure, and our willingness to take on new opportunities to grow our local economy.

I would like to thank the Treasurer for his hard work and his engagement with Suntory in the lead-up to this new project. The support of the Queensland government's Invested in Queensland program is showing international companies like Suntory that there are clear benefits to investing in Queensland. The major investors and employers that have set up in Ipswich over the last few years with the state government's support include Rheinmetall, Coles, Australia Post, Saab and Costco. Because of their investment in Ipswich, hundreds of new local jobs have been created and multiple economic benefits have flowed on to the rest of the region. I welcome Frucor Suntory's investment in Ipswich and I know that they are looking forward to engaging closely with our local community and other businesses.

The Palaszczuk government's commitment to increasing investment in our state is clearly showing benefits. The state's unemployment rate is now at a record low of 3.2 per cent. Queensland is not only the perfect state to invest in but also we are ideally positioned for the renewable energy revolution. Our recently announced Energy and Jobs Plan will help to tackle climate change while creating 100,000 secure clean energy jobs. I want to acknowledge Minister de Brenni who is in the House for the work he has done on this. Our goal of 70 per cent renewables by 2032 is a massive game changer. To reach that target, \$62 billion worth of public and private investment will be put into clean energy technology and manufacturing. This will create incredible economic opportunities for Queensland workers, businesses and communities. As we head towards 2032, the Palaszczuk Labor government is accelerating their support for investment in Queensland.

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