

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 229**  
**Asked on 28 April 2004**

MR PURCELL asked the Minister for State Development and Innovation (MR McGRADY) —

QUESTION:

With reference to so many Queensland and, in fact, Australia's leading businesses choosing to relocate their head offices in the new prestigious light industrial estates in the Bulimba Electorate —

What assistance is this Government providing to other businesses to keep this trend going and keep local employment on the increase?

ANSWER:

The Department of State Development and Innovation has the responsibility of developing strategies designed to address the rapidly changing needs of business, and to strengthen the role of business as primary generators of employment. These strategies include:

- improving the level of management skills of new and existing business owners and operators that empower business to respond quickly and positively to rapidly changing market forces;
- increasing awareness of new and improved technologies, and providing specific programs to encourage the adoption of these technologies;
- encouraging businesses to become globally competitive, providing the necessary export development skills, and identifying and assisting access to overseas markets; and
- promoting the concept of entrepreneurship.

State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane delivers the Department's services and programs to the Brisbane region, comprising the Brisbane CBD, inner city area, south western area and parts of Brisbane to the north and east of the Brisbane CBD. The area covered includes the Bulimba electorate. Services and programs provided include:

- Facilitation of *SmartLicence* applications. *SmartLicence* is the Department's one-stop shop for business registration and licensing requirements.
- Dissemination of business information and business self-help tools.
- One-on-one business consultations assisting with business start-ups, business planning, investment attraction, adoption of new technologies, and domestic and overseas market expansion.
- Workshops, seminars, forums and networking sessions covering small business management skills development, e-Commerce, industry cluster facilitation, enhancement of manufacturing capability and export development.

Since 1 July 2003, State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane provided the following services and programs:

- 1031 significant one-on-one business consultations;
- 63 workshops, seminars and forums, focussed on dissemination of industry information, skills development and manufacturing initiatives, delivered to 957 participants, mostly from the small business sector;
- Small Business Development workshops attended by 15 companies in the Bulimba electorate; and
- 13 export promotions and skills development programs.

Through the Government Business Information Service, the Business Resource Centre and the Retail Shop Leases Registry, the Department provides a range of services that assist businesses with information about State and Federal Government services; facilitate the business planning process; and advise and assist retail tenants and landlords experiencing difficulties with retail leases.

Furthermore, the Queensland Government's Trade Strategy, *Export Solutions*, has a range of initiatives that are targeted to assist regional businesses. In particular, the New Exporter Development Program initiative specifically meets the needs of businesses interested in commencing international trade. State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane is also holding export forums and seminars that provide specific market intelligence in targeted countries and regions. Between July 2003 and April 2004, 26 Brisbane companies participated in the New Exporter Development Program.

State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane provides access to programs designed to help Queensland businesses expand and employ more people. The Queensland Industry Development Scheme was established in 1998 to help businesses to compete in today's rapidly changing and highly competitive global marketplace. The Scheme is a grant scheme provided to eligible businesses to increase their markets, stimulate competitiveness, attract investment, foster innovation, and grow the Queensland workforce.

Businesses located in the Bulimba electorate that have accessed this Scheme include:

- Airwrap Pty Ltd – \$21,000 – for product development of paper wrapping machinery;
- Tavrida Electrical Australia Pty Ltd – \$11,400 – for product development and testing of control and communication cubicles;
- e-Learn 153 Pty Ltd – \$20,000 – for the development of e-learning tools and the completion of a training needs analysis for a cluster of 15 Queensland information technology companies;
- ESS Support Services Worldwide – \$15,000 – for IT product improvement; and
- R & J Thomas Pty Ltd – \$35,000 – for IT product improvement.

The Government has, and will continue to, provide strong support to businesses looking to establish in the Bulimba electorate as well as other parts of Queensland.

The Murrarie Industrial Precinct comprises 30 hectares of prime general-industry land adjoining the Gateway Bridge and Brisbane River. It has direct access to the Gateway Arterial and the Port of Brisbane Roads, and is a critical element of this Government's Australia TradeCoast strategy.

The Government has developed the Murrarie Industrial Precinct in the Bulimba electorate and, through its Estates Construction Fund, has allocated a total of \$10.43M. The Murrarie Industrial Precinct is now complete and is already attracting new businesses, such as Laminex Industries (approximately 200 staff) and City Beach Sportswear (staff numbers are commercial-in-confidence).

The Murrarie Industrial Precinct also contains the Rivergate Business and Marine Park. Negotiations are continuing with a number of marine companies considering relocating to or establishing in the Park.

Specific business and industry development projects undertaken by State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane in 2003/04 include:

- An Export Passport seminar in November 2003. This seminar was focused on small businesses in the Brisbane region that are not experienced exporters, with the objective of engaging with them to promote the export services of State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane. A number of attendees at this seminar have developed an ongoing relationship with State Development and Innovation Centre Brisbane through the provision of further export advice and attendance at Export Pathways workshops.
- Export Networking events in November 2003 and March 2004. A range of experts presented on the Singaporean and Chinese markets to both intending and established exporters in the Brisbane region.
- Facilitation of a number of industry clusters engaged in industry network and supply chain activities including the Australian Masters in Aged Care Services (AMACS). AMACS comprises 'leading edge' suppliers and providers in the aged care industry. To date AMACS has hosted a number of inbound trade missions from Japan and Taiwan and is currently in advanced negotiations with Taiwan Sugar Corporation regarding feasibility studies to design and construct a number of aged care facilities in Taiwan. There are two companies in AMACS that are located in the Bulimba electorate.

The Queensland Government negotiated with Australian Country Choice (ACC) for the company to enter into a purchase agreement for the Queensland Government abattoir at Cannon Hill. The purchase by ACC in 2001 was subject to certain conditions including maintenance of employment numbers and continuation as an abattoir. To date the company has fulfilled all of its obligations.

Mrs Crockett's Kitchen and Kerry Ingredients have both been assisted to locate in the Bulimba electorate through the Government's Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme.