

QUESTION ON NOTICE
No. 493
Asked on Tuesday, 19 April 2005

MR CHOI asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries (MR PALASZCZUK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the recent event 'Living the Queensland Lifestyle' held at the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Research Station at the Redlands on Saturday, 9 April—

How does lifestyle horticulture benefit all Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

The Queensland lifestyle horticulture industry is estimated to comprise over 4 300 businesses, with almost one-third being located in regional areas. The industry employs about 10 000 Queenslanders and generates in excess of \$120 million in overseas and interstate export sales each year.

Lifestyle horticulture is also one of Queensland's fastest growing primary industries. The gross value of the lifestyle horticulture industry is forecast to reach \$1.4 billion in 2004-05. This growth is creating additional employment opportunities for many Queenslanders.

The lifestyle horticulture industry also makes a number of important social and environmental contributions to Queensland, and to Queensland's unique lifestyle. For example, the lifestyle horticulture industry:

- transforms new housing developments into attractively landscaped communities;
- helps create popular tourist facilities that attract visitors from interstate and overseas;
- is integral to the development and maintenance of landmark Queensland sporting arenas such as the Gabba, Ballymore, Suncorp and ANZ stadiums;
- improves the scenic amenity and reduces the environmental impacts of major infrastructure projects (such as motorways) through the appropriate placement of plants and landscape infrastructure;
- designs, installs and maintains Queensland's many parks, gardens and golf courses;
- produces the flowers and foliage used to help celebrate special occasions, and decorate homes, offices and tourist destinations;
- produces the plants to make homes, offices, tourist destinations and shopping complexes more pleasant and healthy;
- provides the plants for Queensland's expanding commercial forest plantation industry;
- is an integral part of all re-vegetation and environmental remediation projects that rejuvenate previously damaged environments such as salt-affected areas;
- promotes the floral diversity of natural ecosystems; and
- is a significant user of recycled water.