

Question on Notice
No. 1517
Asked on 29 November 2006

MR WENDT asked the Minister for State Development, Employment and Industrial Relations (MR MICKEL) —

QUESTION:

With reference to my pleasure at representing the Premier at the Ipswich Region Export Awards —

Will he inform the House of the outstanding exporting achievements of the Ipswich region?

ANSWER:

In 2005 – 2006 the Smart State led Australia as the fastest growing exporter. Queensland's merchandise exports grew by 34% to reach a record \$35.4 billion.

Ipswich firms are achieving success in selling their products and services in some of the most competitive markets in the world and, in doing so, are making a significant contribution to Queensland's booming economy and raising the profile of the whole region.

The companies that recently entered the 2006 Ipswich Region Export Awards highlighted the diversity and depth of the region's business community and its strong export culture.

At the Ipswich ceremony on 22 September 2006, awards were presented for seven categories. The winners all proceeded on to the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards 2006. The winners were:

- Small/Micro Business Award: Toft Endurance Pty Ltd;
- Emerging Exporter Award and Agribusiness Award: Olive Products Australia Pty Ltd;
- Large Advanced Manufacturer Award: Tyco Water Pty Ltd;
- Minerals and Energy Award: New Hope Coal Australia;
- Services Award: West Moreton Anglican College; and
- Small to Medium Manufacturer Award: Pratco Industries Pty Ltd.

New Hope Coal Australia went on to win the Minerals and Energy category at the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards and then also represented the State at the Australian Export Awards held in Melbourne on 30 November. This is a magnificent achievement.

Previous Ipswich Region Export Award winners continue to be exceptional examples of what the region's companies can achieve through pursuing international opportunities. Companies such as Australian Meat Holdings

(AMH) and Mulgowie Farming Company continue to excel on the international stage.

The Ipswich region successfully delivered 29 new exporters under the joint Queensland Government/Austrade New Exporter Development Program during the implementation period of the Government's first Trade Strategy, Export Solutions 2001-2006. This demonstrates that any innovative business regardless of size and location can sell into overseas markets through having internationally competitive products and export management skills.

The Queensland Government is committed to working with businesses in the Ipswich region and throughout the State in supporting Queensland firms to expand their export reach.

Under the Government's recently announced five-year export strategy *Driving Export Growth for Queensland 2006-2011*, a team of Export Advisers will provide Queensland businesses with market development, export sustainability and new exporter development advice and support. These Export Advisers are located within the State Development Centres throughout the State.

The Export Advisers will deliver skills development programs, export-focused seminars and a range of current and new government-funded export programs. The Export Advisers will also work closely with the Queensland Government's overseas offices in the Trade Queensland network.

The Government's commitment to enhancing export opportunities will ensure that Ipswich firms continue to achieve success in international markets.