



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

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TURF INDUSTRY

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (3.03 pm): A recent report by DEEDI indicates that the lifestyle horticulture industry in Queensland has an estimated annual turnover of just under \$4.4 billion and employs 28,000 people who earn over \$625 million in wages. Within the lifestyle horticulture sector, turf production accounts for just under \$160 million and directly employs 1,500 Queenslanders earning more than \$25 million in wages.

The turf industry in Queensland has been well established for some time. Almost half of all the businesses engaged in the production of turf have been operating for more than 10 years. Overwhelmingly, turf producers are small businesses. The DEEDI report indicates that, on average, 87 per cent of the total sales of a turf production business are within 100 kilometres of where their business is located, while less than one per cent is sold interstate. It is a Queensland based industry that grows turf for Queenslanders.

Turf Queensland is the peak industry body representing turf producers in Queensland. It has been working particularly hard in recent years to improve the quality and the reputation of the turf industry in this state. It has developed and promoted a voluntary turf accreditation process for turf producers. Businesses are assessed independently by a third party, allowing turf producers to identify themselves as sustainable producers of a top-grade product. The turf accreditation process sets high standards for the sustainable use of land and water for the production of turf.

Using an accredited turf producer minimises the risk to consumers when purchasing turf for everything from a backyard job to a major commercial project and ensures customers are purchasing a quality product that is environmentally friendly. I would like to compliment the turf industry and turf producers for proactively developing the turf accreditation process for what is a growing Queensland industry.

(Time expired)