



## **RACHEL NOLAN MP**

### **Member for Ipswich**

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#### **QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE: MANUFACTURERS, IPSWICH REGION**

**Ms NOLAN:** My question is to the Minister for State Development and Innovation can he explain to the House what is being done to help manufacturers in the Ipswich region grow?

**Mr McGRADY:** I thank the member for that question and indeed place on record the tremendous amount of work that she is doing to help manufacturers in her electorate. I am pleased to say that things are certainly looking good for the Ipswich manufacturers and I believe that the government deserves thanks for the support that we are giving them. We are now really starting to see some results. We have set up a western corridor manufacturing industry pipeline to help businesses to achieve their potential in the Ipswich area. This pipeline provides networking, mentoring, training opportunities and management skills development. Indeed it educates businesses about government assistance programs such as the Queensland Industry Development Scheme. Since 1998 the Beattie government has approved 38 QIDS grants for the Ipswich region totalling just under \$1 million—in fact, to be accurate, \$930,000. The good news is that the funding is expected to create nearly 1,000 jobs in the Ipswich area.

Recently I heard of an excellent example of just how effective this pipeline is. John Watts of John Watts Sewing has been selling sewing machines from his store for over 16 years. Eighteen months ago he developed an innovative machine that is designed specifically for quilting. Thanks to the state government's support, Mr Watts' annual turnover has gone from \$230,000 to over \$1 million in just 12 months. And now, thanks to a \$46,000 QIDS grant, Mr Watts will soon be exporting his machine world wide. That is what it is all about: exporting.

This is certainly clear proof that the government's manufacturing strategies are working to help regional Queenslanders. As I said earlier on this morning, is it not a pity that the federal government does not pay as much attention to the manufacturing industry as the Queensland government does.