

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Tourism, Regional Development and Industry
The Honourable Desley Boyle
28/11/2008

Queensland Government stands by Hans Continental Smallgood workers

The Queensland Government has put its Immediate Response Group on notice to respond quickly should workers be displaced following the announcement today that Hans Continental Smallgoods has gone into voluntary administration.

Industry Minister Desley Boyle said she was saddened by the news the company had been placed under administration but was hopeful the company and staff would be fine.

"The Queensland Government has contacted Hans Smallgoods management to discuss the situation and discuss staff security," Ms Boyle said.

"The company has provided us with a full assurance that all staff will be looked after.

"This does however highlight the importance of Queenslanders supporting local companies - it's simply, buy local and buy a Queensland job!"

"I can assure the workers and their families that if needed we will provide whatever assistance is necessary to ensure they receive full entitlements and are provided with necessary support to find alternative employment.

"Any employees that do find themselves out of a job may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in workers assistance to help them with such things as job preparation, training assistance, employer wage subsidy and relocation assistance," she said.

Ms Boyle said The Hans group employs approximately 1400 people.

"There are approximately 1,000 employees at the Hans manufacturing sites in Colmslie and Wacol in Brisbane and Blacktown in Sydney.

"Hans also is the major shareholder in the Swicker's factory which operates an abattoir and production facility that employs about 400 people in Kingaroy, Queensland.

"We are hopeful the company can see through this tough time and remain an important part of the Queensland business community," she said.

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