



Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Arnott's, Sesquicentenary

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.11 am): In 1847 a Scottish baker and pastry cook named William Arnott arrived by sailing vessel in the colony of New South Wales. He quickly found work as a baker and went where the custom was, baking pies and ships biscuits, later opening a bakery in Newcastle. Armed with a single-minded determination to succeed and an irresistible product that original bakery went on to become the iconic Arnott's Biscuits that now, 150 years later, can be found in 95 per cent of Australian households. Today Arnott's employs 2,500 people in state-of-the-art bakeries in Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide, exports to more than 40 countries around the world and spends approximately \$500 million each year on raw ingredients, packaging and other services. Raw ingredients are sourced from farmers across Australia, including flour and grains from the Darling Downs and sugar from North Queensland.

Arnott's is more than just a major manufacturer. For me it is a local manufacturer and a much-celebrated business in my electorate of Nudgee. Arnott's Virginia bakery employs 600 staff and produces 40 per cent of Arnott's total Australian manufacturing output. It produces around 100 different products, from Cruskits to Monte Carlos and almost 1 trillion Tiny Teddy biscuits each year—numbers that my own two children have made a willing contribution to. Like many Nudgee locals, I have grown up with the Arnott's smell floating over our local suburb and now my electorate office. On a recent tour of the facility I was struck by the cutting-edge robotic technology employed there. Over the past few years Arnott's have invested more than \$100 million in a major automation project to ensure that the plant remains competitive. This technology is operating side by side with hundreds of dedicated employees in what could only be described as an impressive operation.

When Arnott's asked me recently if I would be willing to host an afternoon tea to mark their 150th anniversary my immediate answer was yes. It was a pleasure, along with the Premier, you, Mr Speaker, and many colleagues from across the chamber, to welcome Mr Umit Subasi, President Campbell Arnott's; Mr Craig Funnell, Vice President Supply Chain; Mr Anthony Jones, Group Plant Manager and manager of the Virginia bakery; and 24 hardworking Arnott's staff members to parliament this afternoon to celebrate their 150th anniversary. It was wonderful to have such a cross-section of the parliament in attendance and I thank the Premier and my fellow members for making this event such a memorable one for those wonderful long-serving employees of Arnott's who came along today.

Last Sunday Arnott's Virginia also opened their gates to the public for the first time and organised a family fun day in celebration of their 150th anniversary. It was a pleasure to be invited to attend and cut the cake along with federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan. I understand from discussions with plant manager Tony Jones that approximately \$50,000 was raised for Camp Quality, supporting children with cancer. I would like to thank Arnott's for their kind welcome to my family on Sunday and to wish them and all their staff a very happy 150th anniversary.