

Parliamentary praise

PETER Ryan's Fodder Factory has been highly praised in State Parliament and is one of 36 NSW companies selected for worldwide promotion.

The new hydroponic feed processing plant which can produce up to a tonne of fodder a day, all year round, in any location, was described as "a drought buster" by the New South Wales Treasurer, Michael Egan.

Peter Ryan of Wingham had spent the last nine years developing the Fodder Factory, Mr Egan said in the New South Wales Parliament last week.

"I'm told Fodder factories have been put on drought stricken farms with dying animals and within weeks

the stock have not only survived but have gained weight," Mr Egan said.

The Fodder Factory is a galvanised iron frame that goes together like a big meccano set. Inside is a watering system and shelves for storing trays of grain.

A computer system controls the watering of the grain, the temperature, air movement, humidity and carbon dioxide levels.

After about eight days the grain shoots and produces a thick mat of green feed about a foot high.

The Fodder Factory is one of the first 36 New South Wales companies selected for worldwide promotion at international expos and

other events in the run up to the Olympic Games in 2000.

"Companies selected for promotion through what we call the 'Australian Technology Showcase' have locally developed products which ready for export," Mr Egan said.

Nine of the companies selected are from regional New South Wales.

The nine are Technico from Bowral; Solar Sailor - Ulladulla; Bashford International - Nowra; Enretech - Moss Vale; Sustainable Technologies - Queanbeyan; Fodder Factory - Wingham; Soil Care Systems - Wellington; Universal Power Track - Erina and Water Tude in Tamworth.



Peter Ryan

"The Olympics gives the world an interest in us, but it's our job as a Government to do all we can to turn that interest into something more - into trade and high quality jobs."