



Speech by

GARY FENLON

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard 11 November 1998

JOB CREATION

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.06 p.m.): Tonight it is a great pleasure to again affirm this Government's overriding commitment and promise to the people of Queensland before the election in respect of job creation. That will continue to be the theme that underlines most of what I will continue to pursue in my electorate and what I will continue to advocate in this House during this term.

This Government realises that we need imagination and vision in a world where the nature of work is rapidly changing. That the Government realises that is evidenced by the fact that it has devoted an entire portfolio to technology. Therefore, it is with a deal of excitement that I rise to draw attention to the efforts currently being made by one of my constituents to establish a training program in a field that will continue to grow, that is, film and video special effects.

We have heard much about the potential of Queensland and Australia as a site for the production of films. As some members may know, the creator of Star Wars, George Lucas, recently visited Australia to canvass locations for upcoming additions to the Star Wars series. This is an exciting development and augurs well for the future of film production in this country, with the prospect of two films in that series being produced in Australia, primarily out of Fox Studios. I hope that we can bring ewoks to Queensland. Let us bring Jabba the Hutt to Queensland. I know it has been suggested that we already have some examples of him in the House, but let us bring the real one here. If we can bring to Queensland the associated infrastructure and jobs, we will be bringing wealth and opportunity to Queensland.

Mr Briskey: Are they real? I thought they were make-believe. They are real, are they?

Mr FENLON: When they are on the big screen, they are real. They are certainly real in the hearts of many people throughout the world. This is quite an opportunity for us. We should not just let Sydney dominate this industry. I hope that the Government gets behind a strategy to make the most of bringing these films to Queensland in whatever way we can. We should not just be looking at what we might see as the traditional approach to filming in terms of trying to find a place where the film is shot—where you actually expose the film—whether it is a beach, the mountains, a rainforest or wherever. There is so much to the film industry and so much that we can look to in terms of value adding to create jobs in this State. The post-production stages and the technical stages of films such as this are an immense industry in their own right.

However, this is the key issue. I do not want to see this country and this State as simply a location with impressive scenery and low production costs. It is not just a land of ragged mountain ranges, it is indeed a clever country. I think we have people with talent and imagination to ensure that, in order to supply special effects know-how, we do not need to look overseas. I hope that we can start knocking on those doors—kicking those doors—and saying, "We have people in Queensland who can do those jobs. We have very well qualified, talented people in Queensland who can pick up on those opportunities. Let us get down there and make the most of it."

Geoff Smart and his company Firelight and Optics, one of my fine constituents, is offering the opportunity for Queenslanders to learn and, indeed, to teach the skills necessary to capitalise on the burgeoning market for film and television special effects and computer-generated imagery for computer games. This is, indeed, a fabulous area and here in Queensland we are now at the forefront, with a prospect of developing training and direct service provision in this field. This will be the first course of its

type in Australia accredited by VETEC, using IBM PC technologies— technologies which produce professional, production-level material at less than half the cost of other comparable systems. The course has been written and continues to be tailored with the input of industry with a view to the creation of the skills that industry knows it needs.

I understand that a number of major companies have expressed interest in either offering work experience for students or providing air time for students' work. The training that Firelight and Optics will offer is at a professional broadcast level using 3D——

Time expired.
