



Speech by

GARY FENLON

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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UNIVERSITY OF THE SUNSHINE COAST BILL

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.40 p.m.): Henry Carey said that a true university these days is a collection of books. Indeed it is, but it is a lot more than that. Indeed, the Bill before us today exemplifies that a university is more than that a true university today is a community; it should have a community of interest. This particular Bill will ensure that the Sunshine Coast has its own university and one to be proud of in the future. In saying that, I support this Bill before the House.

Through the eighties I served for about seven years on the Griffith University council as a Governor in Council nominee, and I enjoyed that time a great deal. That time saw quite a lot of changes in the universities throughout Queensland and throughout Australia. We saw an almost evangelical zealotry in terms of universities setting out to build their empires—not Griffith University, of course. Throughout Australia various universities acquired smaller campuses around them and there was a lot of rationalisation. It was a period of rationalisation that was very appropriate because there were a lot of small campuses—a lot of campuses that really were not, as it were, viable in their own right. That was a process that really needed to proceed. It was a process that was necessary.

I am very pleased to see that the major parties to the process of establishing universities now, that is the State Government, the Commonwealth Government and the university in question itself—in this case, the Queensland University of Technology, a very fine university and my former employer—are taking part in a very sensible and rational solution in allowing the creation of a new campus. That campus is being allowed in such a way that the community will benefit a great deal from it.

I hope that that particular university does well in the future. I wish it well. In the style of the Monty Python song that was created for the fictitious university of Woolloomooloo, which was the drinkers' song which sent up various philosophers with drinking habits——

Mr Wells interjected.

Mr FENLON: Immanuel Kant certainly figured very significantly in that song as well as David Hume, who could outconsume Schopenhauer and Hegel. The Honourable Minister would recall that. Maybe the Sunshine Coast University could look at a similar song upon which to build its university, based on such activities as surfing, which is very prominent in its local community. I commend the Bill to the House.
