



Speech by

**JEFF SEENEY**

**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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Hansard 27 August 1998

**AUSTRALIAN MAGNESIUM CORPORATION; BILOELA**

**Mr SEENEY** (Callide—NPA) (2.11 a.m.): I rise in this House tonight to congratulate the people of Biloea and call on the Premier and the Minister for State Development to recognise an extraordinary demonstration of community spirit and self help that occurred in Biloea last night. The Australian Magnesium Corporation, a company investigating the possibility of constructing a commercial magnesium plant adjacent to the Callide Power Station, held a public meeting in Biloea to measure the interest of and community support for the project.

Over 550 people turned up to encourage the company to locate the plant at Biloea. A range of speakers including the Federal member, the mayor, councillors, business people and young people from the community expressed support for the project and urged the company to favourably consider the advantages Biloea has to offer. The magnesium plant will cost an estimated \$700m to build and employ a construction work force of 1,000 and an ongoing work force of 450. This commercial magnesium plant would provide a solid industrial base for Biloea and the Callide Valley and complement the power generation industry already located there. It would be a huge boost for the community and the central Queensland region. Four hundred and fifty permanent jobs would guarantee Biloea's future and provide job opportunities for the young people of the area.

I call on the Premier and the Minister to lend this project every support. I believe the Government should be prepared to assist in a very real way to ensure that this project is located in Biloea. The dividends from a prosperous community in the Callide Valley will flow to the State for generations to come. I take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Biloea on their initiative. In particular, I congratulate Mr Bill Hamilton, who chaired the meeting, and Mr Ron Mazzer from the Biloea Promotion Bureau.

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