



Speech by

**Hon. J. ELDER**

**MEMBER FOR CAPALABA**

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Hansard 30 July 1998

**MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**  
**Tsunami Disaster, Papua New Guinea**

**Hon. J. P. ELDER** (Capalaba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade) (10.20 a.m.): I rise to support the Premier's motion concerning the tragic events two weeks ago in the West Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea has always had a special relationship with Queensland, and north Queensland in particular. Many people from Papua New Guinea have been educated in Queensland and there are close trade links between Queensland and Papua New Guinea. I personally visited Papua New Guinea as a Minister and count many of the people within the PNG business community, and particularly a number of PNG politicians, as very close friends.

The tragedy that occurred last Friday week reminded us that nature is always the most potent force on earth. Possibly the most chilling aspect of this whole episode is that we will not know exactly how many people died as a result of that event. Individual families in the West Sepik Province would know that they no longer have a brother, sister, mother, father, husband, wife, son or daughter.

I must say that Queenslanders have responded magnificently to the tragedy, especially many of the people who have business links with Papua New Guinea. Many more Queenslanders have made contributions simply because they feel the real human tragedy of what happened on our doorstep. If there is a silver lining on this cloud of tragedy it is the display of true generosity of human spirit. I support the motion.

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