



Speech by

Hon. J. ELDER

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard 19 November 1998

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. J. P. ELDER (Capalaba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade) (7.17 p.m.), in reply: I thank the Opposition for its support. As the shadow Minister indicated, in essence this is the same legislation that was brought before the Parliament by the coalition. The reason for that was that the department was working outside the requirements of its legislation outlined by the Auditor-General in that the Industrial Estates Construction Fund and the Estates Maintenance Fund needed to be collapsed. Under the new arrangements, we acted within the ambit of our own legislation. I will not go into the economics debate with which the shadow Minister commenced his contribution. I will leave that debate for another day. I appreciate his support in relation to this legislation.

As to the questions raised by the member for Gladstone, the Minister has always been the corporation. Historically, the Minister has bought and sold land and run the estates. The only change that we have made in terms of these powers is that we have given the Minister—in this case, me—a broader power by changing the definition of "industry". Previously on estates we could develop only manufacturing-type industries. On a lot of the smaller estates a better mix was needed. We have allowed the definition of "industry" to change to allow, for instance, for child-care centres, banks and service facilities in the middle of new high-tech industrial estates. We have allowed the definition to change to give the Minister the flexibility to establish those types of enterprises in industrial estates. Obviously, we are not talking about the heavy industrial estates. By nature, they will remain as heavy industrial estates. As industrial estates change and the need for new-style industrial estates arises, we will need flexibility. That is the only change in terms of that power.

In terms of Crown land within industrial estates that has not been allocated—and Aldoga, in the electorate of the member for Gladstone, is a good example—areas that are not already industrial estates but are likely to be industrial estates in the long term will be subject to the Native Title Act. In industrial estates where we have vacant Crown land, it does not apply; it is essentially part of that estate and, as such, should be developed by the Government. However, Aldoga would be an instance in which the Native Title Act would apply.

There are no staff redundancies created from a collapsing of either the estate or maintenance funds. Essentially, we had two funds operating. The Auditor-General said that, under the current requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, we need one fund. The previous Government understood that. We have just met that same requirement.

I think that the member has been given the answers to the other questions that she raised. I believe that those questions have been answered satisfactorily, or at least I hope that they have been.
