



Speech by

**Hon. KEN HAYWARD**

**MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR**

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Hansard 20 October 1998

**WATER STORAGE, IRVINEBANK; ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY**

**Hon. K. W. HAYWARD** (Kallangur—ALP) (6.39 p.m.): I support the amendment to the motion moved by the Minister. I wish to speak to the second part of the amendment, which states—

"The Parliament also commends the Minister for Mines and Energy for seeking final resolution to the longstanding issues surrounding the former Government operations at Irvinebank."

The member for Tablelands spoke about this issue tonight. It certainly has been a longstanding issue. In speaking about the treatment works, we need to look at its history since 1981, when it first went out to tender. When we look at the history of the State treatment works, we begin to see that nothing is ever simple when it comes to the treatment works at Irvinebank. In 1990 a Bill was introduced to facilitate the sale of the State treatment works for \$120,000. As I said, the treatment works were first opened—

**Mr NELSON:** I rise to a point of order. That statement is untrue. The original agreement was reached in 1984, not 1990. That is deliberately misleading.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr HAYWARD:** If you were listening to what I just said, I said—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member will address his remarks through the Chair.

**Mr HAYWARD:** If the member had listened to what I was saying, he would know that I said that a Bill was introduced into Parliament in 1990. The member should read the history; if he did, he would know what he is talking about. The treatment works were first opened in 1884, when it was owned by private operators. Since 1884 it has been in either State hands or private hands depending on the price of tin over that time. In 1919 it became State owned. That was as a direct result of low prices for tin at the time. The State took over the operations basically to maintain small miners in the Herberton district. Theodore was the acting Premier at the time, because Ryan was out of the State, and Theodore took the initiative to acquire the Irvinebank State Treatment Works. In the late 1920s it reverted to private enterprise and in 1934 the State Government assumed control.

In 1981 it went out to tender. By about July 1983, Mr Hilla was declared the successful tenderer. We are now 15 years on. A lot of things have gone on in that time. There was the Irvinebank State Treatment Works (Sale and Operation) Act of 1990, which is what I was referring to before. I thought the member would have made some effort to at least look up the history of this plant. That associated agreement required Mr Hilla to apply for a mining lease covering the State treatment works and the associated infrastructure. It also required that he provide bulk water to the township of Irvinebank. From recollection, it also required the Water Resources Commissioner to direct in the interests of safety that work be carried out on the Loudon and Ibis Dams. That was what the 1990 Act of this Parliament required. I am sure that the Minister at the time thought it was coming to some conclusion. But, of course, it has not, because Mr Hilla has never fully complied with the agreement conditions. In his original application for the mining lease, he sought to apply conditions which were outside the terms of the agreement, which was the special Act of Parliament in 1990.

A lot of time and effort has gone into this. Importantly, the amendment moved tonight by the Minister states—

"The Parliament also commends the Minister for Mines and Energy for seeking final resolution to the longstanding issues surrounding the former Government operations at Irvinebank."

As I said, it has been tortuous——

Time expired.