



Speech by

Mr K. LINGARD

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Hansard 17 September 1998

MR G. LUI

Mr LINGARD (Beaudesert—NPA) (10.24 p.m.): I pay my deepest respects to one of the greatest men of the Torres Strait islands. On 24 August, Mr Getano Lui Senior from Yam Island died. Mr Lui had been awarded an MBE in 1980. He served as chairman of Yam Island council for over 30 years and, during that time, he was a commissioner for ATSI. I had the pleasure of living in the Torres Strait islands during the 1970s, which was a time of great turmoil. The most significant controversy was the border change issue and Mr Lui played a significant role in that issue.

Getano Lui was born in Mabuiag in 1913. He was first married in 1933 at a wedding officiated by his father, Reverend Joseph Lui, who is now buried at the magnificent St Paul's mission church. As a teacher, Mr Lui was transferred to Yam Island for three years from 1936 and he returned to Yam Island as a Government teacher in 1941. His first wife died during the early 1960s and he remarried in 1967. Mr Lui had 14 children to his first wife, including Getano Lui Junior. He had six children to his second wife, including Victor and Daniel. Getano Lui Junior took over from Mr Lui Senior as chairman of Yam Island council, and Victor and Danny are also members of the current Yam Island council.

Mr Lui's work in the Torres Strait has gained prominence in Torres Strait history. He was an outspoken leader on many political issues, and acted as an adviser and elder on both church and cultural issues. He was a strong advocate for education, being a teacher himself.

Over the past few years, Mr Lui did not experience good health. On recent trips I was delighted to be able to visit him under his house at Yam Island. I was even more delighted if I found that he had been able to move himself to the tin shed beside the basketball courts when I visited. I considered it a great honour that Getano Lui Senior would make this effort. To the people of Yam Island, I convey the respect and thanks of the Queensland Parliament for the life and work of Getano Lui Senior.
