



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 21 October 1998

MS C. KERNOT

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 a.m.): The people of rural and regional Queensland are used to some insults and lack of service from the Labor Party, but nothing could be greater than this insult. They found out this morning that Ms Cheryl Kernot has been appointed the shadow Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Transport and Regional Services. Is this new jillaroo whom the Labor Party has foisted on the people of the bush the same one who ratted on the Democrats, a leader of the party who jumped ship? I can tell honourable members what the people of the bush like. They want someone who will stick and stay, not someone who will jump off and run away at the first taste of the drought, the first whiff of a bushfire, the first smell of a flood or the first hint of crop failure. That is the sort of people we want in the bush: people with a bit of character and strength, not people who jump ship.

This is the same Cheryl Kernot who told the Democrats to ignore the people of the bush and ignore rural affairs because there were no votes there. This is the same Cheryl Kernot who, with Paul Keating, brought in the Native Title Act and made sure that the right to negotiate was there right across-the-board just so there are problems for the people of the bush.

It is an absolute disgrace and insult, but it continues the tradition we have seen, I guess, from the Beattie Labor Government: \$200m in capital works for the bush cut from the Capital Works Program and funnelled down into south-east Queensland; the Boulia and Barcoo power projects, which the member for Gregory mentioned yesterday, were cut and are gone. We are seeing it non-stop. The Labor Party tried to stop the Callide C project. It did its level best to stop that. It ignored the Isolated Parents and Children's Association conference just the other day. Not one Labor politician was at that most important conference. What about the jails that we were looking at putting in at——

Time expired.
