



Speech by  
**Mrs NITA  
CUNNINGHAM**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG**

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Hansard 20 October 1998

**BUNDABERG ELECTORATE**

**Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM** (Bundaberg— ALP) (10.24 a.m.): My electorate of Bundaberg was recently fortunate to be the fourth centre in Queensland to host a Community Cabinet meeting. I commend the Premier and his Ministers and staff on the time they so willingly gave to the hundreds of people who took the opportunity to attend. Cabinet meetings had been held in Bundaberg on two other occasions during the last seven years, but neither of these gave the public the opportunity to participate. Premier Beattie and his Government deserve congratulations for their initiative and determination to take Government to the people and to listen to the people.

In Bundaberg, more than 130 formal deputations were heard, and most of these people went home very pleased with the informal and friendly atmosphere and satisfied with the positive results. Numerous groups received good advice or were successful in obtaining funding commitments, the largest being \$2.7m for much-needed building expansion at the CQU Bundaberg campus and \$350,000 to bring facilities at the Bucca rowing venue up to world class and to provide a training venue for the Australian Olympic rowing team.

During this Cabinet meeting in Bundaberg, Queensland's first state development centre was officially opened by the Premier and the State Development Minister, Jim Elder; the Honourable Matt Foley announced a \$500,000 boost to regional arts funding; Minister Merri Rose opened a rural fire shed at Wartburg; and other Ministers visited various departments. Three Ministers were briefed at the proposed Coonar coal port and some inspected the site, and Minister Rod Welford stayed on for an extra day to visit the new Walla Weir, which was full and overflowing for the first time, and to inspect farms and farming procedures. In all, it was a very busy two days which was much appreciated by the people of our entire region.

Time expired.

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