



Speech by
**Mrs NITA
CUNNINGHAM**

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Hansard 21 October 1998

COONARR COAL PORT

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (Bundaberg— ALP) (10.06 a.m.): This morning a petition was presented to the Parliament signed by 144 people opposing the Coonarr coal port proposed to be built near Bundaberg. I wish to draw to the attention of this House, and in particular to the many new members, that a petition of support was also tabled in this Parliament earlier in the year. This supportive petition was signed by some 7,500 people from Coonarr itself, the nearby beaches and from throughout the entire Bundaberg region. It was collected in just over one week and was a clear indication of the tremendous support that this project has from residents, business and industry and I believe every local government from Bundaberg through to Chinchilla. In fact, I have never in my lifetime seen Bundaberg people so united on any issue.

The Bundaberg region has more than double the national average of unemployment, and although there is a small group of opponents this proposed port is seen widely as the best opportunity we have had in over 20 years to bring confidence back into our industries and our economy and to provide desperately needed jobs. I wish to bring to the attention of the House the fact that there is tremendous support in Bundaberg for this project.
