



Speech by

Mr T. SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

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Committee (Cognate Debate)

Estimates Committee C

Report

Mr SULLIVAN (Chermside—ALP) (5.35 p.m.): I rise to support the Estimates Committee C report and congratulate the Minister for Public Works and Housing, who has a very practical approach to his Ministry. He also is very keen on creating jobs, and the capital works aspect is going to be a key driving force of the economy in Queensland. I also am very appreciative of his approach to and support of Department of Housing tenants, a large number of whom I have in my electorate. I appreciate the work done by the now retired Lex Thompson, the former area manager at Chermside.

With respect to the Department of Main Roads and Transport, the Minister has a very difficult task because it is almost like there are two Queenslands. There is that vast area of Queensland with a very small population where people want wider roads, sealed roads and larger and better bridges.

Mr Seeney: That is the real one.

Mr SULLIVAN: I believe that the real Queensland is both sides. I am not going to be narrow and nor should he. Different problems face his constituency and mine. Maybe we can work together. The Minister has a very delicate balance to try to meet both sets of needs. That vast area is where the construction of new roads, new highways, wider roads and bridges is very welcome.

We then come to the south-east corner where, although small in area, we find the highest population and the highest density of population. Here we find that residents, small businesspeople, city workers and transport companies want to be able to get to their point of destination. They want to be able to hop in their car, van or truck and go about their business, but there is a major problem. People do not want the traffic going past their own homes and these two desires do not and cannot marry. Where there is a high density of population and a high number of businesses—manufacturing and production businesses—there are transport needs that must be met.

We have the situation in which the planning of earlier days did not take into account what was going to be needed in this highly developed and highly industrialised society. Therefore, there are going to be significant tensions within our society as we develop. We do not want to go down the path of some other States so that we are decreasing in population and decreasing in our economy. With the growth of population and economy comes tremendous pressure on a number of services, the most obvious of which is transport.

I believe there are some things that we have to look at that could help us in this planning. One is integrated planning. This is where I applaud Minister Mackenroth working with Minister Bredhauer in the planning of an area so that the transport, housing, recreational and service needs can be looked at right from the word go and so we do not find ourselves in the situation in which an old area, such as inner city Brisbane, is needed for commercial development, but the location of nearby residences creates tension.

As well, we have to put a lot of effort into public transport. This is a problem because, until a full network is in place, people will not use the system. So hundreds of millions of dollars are going to have to be spent on a public transport network so that people will start to use that, just as we have to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on the great development roads in the far west and the far north of our

State. I do not begrudge one cent being spent on the Cape York development road, even though there is a very small population and it has a relatively low usage compared with, say, Gympie Road, which runs through my electorate. However, I recognise that that money has to be spent in those areas. It has to be spent to open up those areas and to link people in remote communities.

In the south-east corner we have quite the opposite problem. Some new roads will have to be built and some tough decisions will have to be made. I would ask for some agreement, wherever possible, on both sides of the House.

I was sad to hear a speech made last night by the member for Clayfield in which he was being his typical parochial self. He is going to look after only his own backyard. He does not take the approach of looking at the wider community. We need to take a bipartisan approach to some of these issues, public transport in particular. I commend both Ministers.
