



Speech by

Tony ELLIOTT

MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

Hansard 21 October 1998

RAILWAY FENCES

Mr ELLIOTT (Cunningham—NPA) (10.27 a.m.): The matter I wish to bring to the attention of the House and the people of Queensland today is the state of repair of railway fences adjoining farms on the Darling Downs. At one time, railway employees spent a tremendous amount of time maintaining those fences. Gangs worked on those fences all the time. I do not know how much members of this House know about fencing, but these fences have the old steel strainers with cotton reel type things through them. They can be tightened up very easily, so there is no excuse for these fences not to be in a state of good repair.

In this litigious age we live in, one can imagine the concern of farmers adjoining railway property. There is potential for stock to stray not only on to the railway and perhaps have an accident or cause some problem with railway property, but also further on to public roads or on to other people's property—private houses or whatever.

Mr Grice: Ask Cheryl Kernot about this.

Mr ELLIOTT: This will be a good job for Cheryl. I will personally lend her a pair of pliers and a pair of Donaldson strainers. She can go out there and start fixing a few fences. That is what they were talking about, isn't it? They were going to fix fences. That will be an interesting task for her.

MR COOPER: What about when Cheryl goes feral?

Mr ELLIOTT: She could go feral with the fences, couldn't she? I am not sure which side of the fence she ought to be on, though. That is the problem; she is not really sure. At the end of the election she thought she was on the wrong side of the fence, but I think yesterday she decided that she was on the right side. I think we should make these fences a high priority and ensure that there is no problem in relation to safety. I call on the Minister to look at this situation because I believe it is getting out of hand.

Time expired.
