



Speech by

## **Hon. V. LESTER**

### **MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Hansard 12 November 1998

#### **SUGAR INDUSTRY; FISH KILLS**

**Hon. V. P. LESTER** (Keppel—NPA) (10.17 a.m.): I have waited the whole week and given the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources the opportunity to apologise to the sugar growers and to say that he was sorry for the comments that he had made when, in fact, laboratory tests had not been undertaken. One of the areas where the Minister suggested that sugar growers were perhaps involved in using chemicals that caused fish kills was the Goose Pond near Mackay. I have to say that the Goose Pond water does not come from sugar-growing fields; it comes from urban areas. So in this particular case the only goose is the Minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Those words are unparliamentary. I ask the honourable member for Keppel to withdraw them.

**Mr LESTER:** I will withdraw that. I have made my point.

The Minister himself agreed that this outburst was based upon supposition. What on earth are we coming to in Parliament when he thinks that something might have happened, then makes a comment and makes a goose of himself! I simply say that even Country Life said that using the farm as a scapegoat must stop. So the Minister got a belting from Country Life as well, and that is a respected newspaper.

Time expired.

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