



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

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OLD BUDERIM POST OFFICE; SPANNER CRABS

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (6.33 p.m.): Tonight I wish to bring to the attention of the House a summary of what can only be described as a shining example of community ingenuity and commitment. I refer to a project being coordinated by the Buderim War Memorial Community Association. I should explain at the outset that this association, formed in 1945, coordinates the activities of virtually every community organisation—41 in fact—on Buderim. Its motto is "Service to commemorate sacrifice".

The project to which I refer is the Old Buderim Post Office. This little old timber building on the corner of Burnett Street and Lindsay Road served the Buderim community and its visitors for decades before the growth of the area required that it shift to a new, larger premises nearby. The old building, which is owned by Australia Post and situated on a small parcel of land belonging to Telstra, remained unused and in a sad state until the community decided that it was too valuable an icon to be lost. After much negotiation, the community resolved to purchase the building, not just to preserve its historical significance but to press it into service again for the people of Buderim.

Currently, the association is leasing the building, with an option to buy for \$143,000 in August this year. To date, \$44,000 has been raised through fundraising events and donations. The association is hoping to receive a further \$20,000 from a Federal Government grant shortly thanks to the involvement of the member for Fisher, Peter Slipper. This will still leave a shortfall of around \$77,000, for which further assistance is being sought. It is important to note that volunteers have also done approximately \$100,000 worth of renovations to the building for a cost of approximately \$4,000 thanks to voluntary work and donations of materials.

The association has received significant assistance with this project from the Maroochy Shire Council and has current applications with the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund and the Jupiters Casino Fund for future projects. Naturally, I support these initiatives. Although more fundraising events are planned, it would appear that the association will need to borrow funds to settle in August. I am assured—and I would like to pass on to this House this assurance—that there is no risk of this project falling over.

It is always difficult to acknowledge individuals when so many have contributed. Some 13 local companies have donated materials, ranging from screws to a complete roof. Over 40 volunteers, mainly from the Buderim Rotary and Lions Clubs, have provided great work, with wonderful help from the local ladies. Some have worked every weekend since the project again. Particularly noteworthy contributions have been made by honorary architect Alan Marrs; building coordinator Graeme Ensoll; and paint master Rae Hume; with help from Ray Blakeway. The operation has been overseen by Robert Armstrong, Paul Moriarty and Cathy Money. It is impossible to mention all of the helpers, but the Friends of Buderim's fundraising efforts, with Ken O'Flaherty's help, should be noted.

This project is not just a building restoration but represents the provision of a valuable working asset to the community. Volunteers will staff the Old Buderim Post Office on a daily basis, welcoming new residents and visitors, disseminating community information, running community events and promoting community spirit. I commend all those who have contributed in any way to date and wish a successful outcome to Simon Whittle, the President of the Buderim War Memorial Community

Association, who has worked so hard. I say: well done, Buderim community, your efforts have become a model for other communities.

In the minute that I have remaining, I would like to say a few words about the spanner crab management plan. Some of my colleagues and I have been briefed by those for and those against the plan. I have followed the process carefully, listened to the arguments put forward and read the documentation provided by both groups. The first point to make is that getting a plan in place had become an urgent priority to ensure certainty in the industry. However, the timing of the release of the plan and the time allowed for consideration left a lot to be desired.

Of the respondents, a considerable percentage were not in favour of the quota allocation formula. Perhaps the non-respondents were in favour. The pro rata allocation of the difference between the average catch history and the TAC does seem to favour the larger operators. I trust that, if members have constituents with small spanner crab quotas coming to them who have been disadvantaged by the formula because of special circumstances, the Minister will consider their situation on a case-by-case basis.
