



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

Hansard 18 August 1999

SUPERMARKET, BUDERIM; KAWANA POLICE STATION

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (11.18 p.m.): I rise to bring to the attention of this House the matter of the proposal to build a supermarket in the village of Buderim on the former ginger factory site in Burnett Street, which is a part of the Buderim-Mooloolaba Road, a State-controlled road.

This proposal was approved by the Maroochy Shire Council in 1996 and was subsequently appealed against by the Department of Main Roads on the following considerations amongst others: the development will generate significant additional traffic; the only road frontage is a State-controlled road; Mooloolaba Road is a narrow, undulating and winding road; the development will add to congestion and detrimentally affect the efficiency of traffic and safety of motorists; it is undesirable to create new intersections servicing the site so close to Ballinger and Lindsay Roads; it will create more turning movements by traffic, aggravated by trucks; vehicles would be required to queue to access the site; there is no single access to the site; and, lastly, the decision was wrong and should not have been approved. I table the notice of appeal here this evening.

I have taken deputations to Ministers and to departmental staff, had countless meetings and telephone conversations and written many letters expressing my concern on probable future traffic congestion.

Buderim has a fire auxiliary, an ambulance station and a proposed police station that do or will rely on their ability to get through Buderim. The capacity of the road is already stretched during the arrival and departure of students, parents and buses at the nearby primary school. These are just some of my concerns. These are just some of the concerns of the many Buderim residents. These were the concerns of the Department of Main Roads three years ago. Have they all been satisfactorily resolved? I doubt it.

I am very concerned about any avoidable increase in traffic congestion on this, Buderim's only through road. I have requested a full briefing from the Minister's office at the earliest opportunity so that I can put the case once again and have been advised that this will be expedited. I understand, however, that time may be running out. Hence my appeal tonight. On behalf of Buderim residents I call on the Minister to keep this appeal in place to allow the Planning and Environment Court to fully and independently investigate the traffic situation and make a considered decision.

I also raise the issue of policing in my electorate, specifically the services provided by the Kawana Police Station. I have a special affinity to the operations of the Kawana station as I was on the Police for Kawana Waters Committee prior to becoming a member of this House. I, along with other committee members, made representations to the Minister of the time, the member for Chatsworth. The station was eventually built. It is a fine building and it is well located. In fact, the station is so well located, on what is the Sunshine Coast's busiest road, the Nicklin Way, which links Caloundra with Mooloolaba, that its visibility and accessibility means that it receives a lot of extra work from not only residents but also passers-by, many of whom are tourists. This extra work is not confined to the daytime but continues into the evening and night.

The Sunshine Coast is an area of huge growth which often seems to suffer its share of growing pains, such as always chasing necessary infrastructure and services for the growing population. This situation applies to policing just as it does to other services and infrastructure.

The north coast region has one of the lowest police to population ratios in the State. One of the reasons for this is that the staffing allocation model does not adequately take into account projected growth rates. As a result, stations such as Kawana have not been able to open beyond normal office hours, despite an obvious need in the community to do so. I understand that a trial of opening the station until midnight was conducted and that it proved very successful. I call on the Minister to urgently assess the effect of the staffing allocation model on rapid growth areas such as Kawana, to further increase police numbers in the region, and Kawana in particular, and to extend the hours of operation at the Kawana station as soon as possible.

It is worth noting that the nearby Kawana Ambulance Station is now operating a night shift and may even move to a 24-hour operation in the near future. This points out clearly the need for at least a night shift at Kawana Police Station, through until midnight. I place on record the community's appreciation of the good work provided by all emergency service personnel in our region.
