



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPIILLY

Hansard 14 April 1999

SOUTHERN MORETON BAY ISLANDS; DISABILITY SERVICES

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (11.07 p.m.): I rise in relation to two matters: firstly, in relation to the southern Moreton Bay islands, which I understand are currently part of a planning study. Although this matter has been brought to the attention of a number of Ministers in recent times, it appears that there is a problem with either the Redland Shire Council or this Government in communicating with those people who are subject to this particular study and associated matters. I say that because the issues that have been raised with me and the correspondence that I have sighted all seem to relate to a lack of communication on this matter.

Very briefly, over many years the landowners on these islands in the southern Moreton Bay area have been paying rates of thousands of dollars. We now find that some 4,000 of these landowners from all over the State—a lot of these people are absentee landowners who live elsewhere—who acquired their properties for a range of prices of up to \$50,000 are now being offered something like \$1,000 to \$5,000 in compensation.

Mr Mackenroth: That's not right.

Mr BEANLAND: As I say, these are their views in relation to the matter. I take the interjection from the Minister, who indicated across the Chamber that this is not true. This is why I say to the Minister that there is a need for communication. I have the information. These people are communicating——

Mr Mackenroth interjected.

Mr BEANLAND: Yes.

Mr Mackenroth: The report was sitting on my desk when I became the Minister. It had been there for a year. I commenced it. It made certain recommendations. The Government has not acted on any of them. It has not decided on what to offer them. So there has been no offer of any money to anybody.

Mr BEANLAND: These people believe that this is the sort of offer that they are going to be made. I say that probably the reason the report was left there for 12 months was that it was not going to be accepted by the former Government. The Minister has accepted it, he has put it out, and he has caused these problems.

Mr Mackenroth: No, we haven't accepted it. We let the people know what the report said.

Mr BEANLAND: The Minister has put out the report for consultation.

Mr Mackenroth interjected.

Mr BEANLAND: The Government put it out for consultation and these people have now become concerned. That is the state of play. It is up to the Government to sort it out with them; it is not up to me. I raise the matter because those people came to me because they were not getting satisfaction from the Government or the Redland Shire. I want some action taken on this matter. I am pleased that the Government will take some action. That is good. We will have achieved something and they will be happy that the issue will be addressed.

The islands include Russell, Lamb, Karragarra and Macleay. The islanders are very concerned because they are paying not only general rates but also charges for services that are related to matters that are not connected to their individual blocks. In some cases their valuations have been reduced considerably—to \$1,200; nevertheless, they pay general rates on the minimum value of land in the

Redland Shire of some \$41,000. They are paying some hundreds of dollars a year in rates alone, with an average of well over \$500.

The Minister has indicated that he is aware of the issue and I am pleased to hear that. I hope that we are going to see some action, because there is a great deal of concern among the community and there appears to me to be a general lack of communication in relation to the whole issue. I will be happy to see the matter resolved in the near future so that these people can see that their concerns have been addressed. At the moment, many of them feel that the first they will find out about it is when their land is resumed and they will not have any say in the matter. I understand that on a number of occasions they have indicated that they feel that the land will end up being part of a larger parcel of land that will be sold off to developers for redevelopment.

The other matter that I want to touch on briefly relates to disability services. This matter concerns the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services taking action in relation to persons with special needs. I have been requested to raise the matter by a person who lives at 4 Tabke Court, Dinmore on behalf of her brother, who has special needs. On a number of occasions she has asked the Minister to take some action to resolve issues of safety. I raise the matter in this Chamber because the person has written to the Minister on a number of occasions, and particularly on 10 March, setting out the full details. She only received an acknowledgment from the Minister, and I understand that it will at least another month before anything——

Time expired.
