



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

Hansard 10 March 1999

PROPERTY MARKETTERS, GOLD COAST; SPEED LIMITS

Mr BEANLAND (Indooroopilly—LP) (11 p.m.): On Tuesday, 2 February 1999, the Minister for Fair Trading rose in this House and raised a number of serious allegations regarding so-called property marketers operating on the Gold Coast. In making these allegations, the Minister implied that I, as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice in the former coalition Government, had acted improperly and against the interests of Queensland consumers.

The Minister also defamed two Gold Coast businessmen, Mr Jim Raptis and Mr Chris Bilborough, alleging that they, or their companies, in making donations to the Liberal Party somehow managed to influence me in making a decision on whether to incorporate into the Auctioneers and Agents Act legislation governing the operation of property marketers. This is simply untrue.

I do not believe that I have ever met Mr Bilborough, let alone discussed with him any issues pertaining to the Auctioneers and Agents Act. Furthermore, at the time of Minister Spence's outrageous allegations I was not aware that either Mr Bilborough or Mr Raptis had contributed financially to the Liberal Party—just as I believe that Minister Spence was not aware that either of these men had similarly contributed to the Labor Party. The sheer incompetence that has been displayed by Minister Spence should be of great concern to all Queensland consumers and business operators.

The Gold Coast property market is worth hundreds of millions of dollars each year to the Queensland economy and there is little doubt that Minister Spence's politically partisan and ill-informed slurs have affected consumer confidence. Minister Spence has an important responsibility to protect the rights of Queensland consumers. The Minister does not, however, have a right to use her position to try to score cheap political points.

I resent the aspersions that Minister Spence has cast not only on my integrity in this particular issue but also on that of hundreds of hard-working, loyal Queensland public servants within the new Office of Fair Trading—formerly the Office of Consumer Affairs—who are dedicated to looking after the interests of consumers in this State. If ever there was a Consumer Affairs Minister in Queensland whose integrity should be questioned, it is Minister Spence, the Minister who was ripped off with a \$93 toilet brush.

The second issue I wish to discuss concerns the new 50 km/h speed limit in suburban streets. This matter goes back to the time of the former Government and has been followed through by the current Government. It is a course of action which I support.

Some other developments were to occur at the same time. One of these concerned the rationalisation of speed zones within suburban streets. The second matter concerned differing speed zones in some streets of the city. In some places we can have a number of speed limits within a very short distance in one street. This is a matter of concern. Motorists have complained to me about this situation. I am sure that I also have been caught on more than one occasion and have missed a speed sign. Without intent, one can miss a speed sign. We find that in one street the speed limit can go from 60 km/h to 50 km/h, and next thing it is down to 40 km/h or 25 km/h. It is all over the place. We were assured that rationalisation would occur with regard to speed limits in urban streets. It appears that is not the case.

The old speed limit arrangements are still continuing except that the 60 km/h speed has dropped to 50 km/h. We now have more speed zones than ever before. I am sure that we will see a lot of unhappy motorists who are concerned about this situation. The Government is not necessarily responsible for this problem. Some of the blame lies with the city council. Perhaps the Minister for

Transport could take the matter up with the Lord Mayor. We need to take a closer look at the matter, because there will be a great deal of unhappiness generated by this situation. People are not so much concerned with the reduction in the speed limit; the problem lies in the different speed limits one sees in the same street.

This problem does not occur solely in Brisbane. Recently I was driving from Brisbane to Beaudesert and I could not believe the differing speed zones that I saw along that stretch of road. I found that there were 90s, 70s, 60s and 40s. They all came out of the blue. When one is watching where one is driving it is easy to miss some of these speed signs. The Minister needs to take up this matter with the Main Roads Department and with the Lord Mayor.

I want to raise the question of Oxley Road, a road which is partly within my electorate. We have a number of schools along Oxley Road. The speed limit is currently 60 km/h. I believe that speed limit should have been reduced to 50 km/h. We have a number of pre-schools—

Time expired.
