



Speech by

DESLEY BOYLE

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

Hansard 27 October 1999

**APPROPRIATION BILL
Estimates Committee C
Report**

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (4.53 p.m.): I am pleased indeed to follow the nonsense of the previous speaker in this debate, the member for Tablelands.

Mr NELSON: I rise to a point of order. I find the statement by the member for Cairns to be offensive and ask that it be withdrawn.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Ms Nelson-Carr): Order! The member will withdraw.

Ms BOYLE: I withdraw. The erroneous statements made by the previous speaker, the member for Tablelands—

Mr NELSON: I rise to a point of order. I find the statement that my remarks are untrue offensive and ask that it be withdrawn.

Ms BOYLE: I withdraw. I wish to differ with the member for Tablelands and report, in fact, the frequent representations I have had from people who live in Cape York and in the gulf and who, of course, come to Cairns from time to time, and their gratitude for the tremendous roadworks program that we have in far-north Queensland.

There are, in fact, some local rumours that my electorate is maybe doing a little bit better than some of the other regions around this State because the member for Cook is the Minister for Transport, and he knows so very well—better probably than former Ministers for Transport—how serious is the need in the cape and in the gulf. Not only has he recently let millions of dollars of contracts to councils as well as to the private sector around the region, he is also engaging in some major road-planning projects, not the least of which involve access to Cairns from the north and from the south. I give recognition to that.

However, I do have a little word of caution for the Minister. The news that the 50 km/h speed limit on suburban roads will shortly be introduced in the far north has not been absolutely welcomed. There are some who ask questions about putting up the signs. That is one thing. But getting people in the far north to obey the signs may be another. Beyond that being the most serious problem that we have in the matter of road transport in the far north, I also congratulate the Minister on the tremendous optimism that exists now with the extension in rail—with the important recognition of the Kuranda rail; the tilt train coming to Cairns; and the increase in status and pride of railway workers in the far north and of their hopes for the future.

In particular, however, I want to talk about the budget of the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing and, in particular, the example of the fine program that he has started in the area of urban development as well as community development in public housing in the Manoora community renewal plan. This year's budget is a total of \$4.1m— \$3m for the urban renewal component and \$1.1m for the community renewal project. This follows a busy time in the previous financial year, and one in which all honourable members of this Chamber should take some pride, particularly those on the Government side of this Chamber, having, as we do, the ability to claim—and properly so—the credit for this program.

Not only are the houses themselves already clearly showing the upgrades; not only is there a great wish and desire of people to buy into the area when houses become available; not only are the roads better looking; and not only are there parks in which the children can play on play equipment—as in any other suburb of Cairns—but there are already major social impacts on the community. The rate of youth crime has all but disappeared. The police tell me that they still do their cursory patrols of the area in what used to be periods when there would be quite some trouble making, particularly from youngsters on the streets of the Manoora area. They have had no call-outs and no difficulty, other than one seven year old who was found to be throwing stones.

The difference is apparent not only in the youth crime rate but also in the pride of the people who live there; in the way they are maintaining their gardens; in the extra friendliness that there is amongst the residents of the estate; and in their pride and enthusiasm to engage in training and employment programs. This is testament, in the Manoora area, to the importance of both the urban and the community side of renewal programs. It is one thing to improve public housing and to treat people in that way—with respect; it is essential also, however, to match this with social and employment programs that give the community real hope.

I would like also to compliment the Minister for his continuation of the extension of training opportunities through Q-Build. It may not be widely known, but 60% of the apprentices employed by Q-Build are based at Q-Build depots outside the Brisbane metropolitan area. This contributes now, of course, to employment opportunities for young people in particular in the regions and will also provide, of course, infrastructure for small business for the future.
