



Speech by

Mrs D. PRATT

MEMBER FOR BARAMBAH

Hansard 26 August 1999

HEAVY VEHICLE WEIGH STATION

Mrs PRATT (Barambah—IND) (7.16 p.m.): I rise to inform the Parliament of a matter that arose in the time of the previous member for Barambah, which has been brought to my attention. The issue concerns a section of road on the outskirts of Nanango, on the highway between Nanango and Goomeri. A heavy vehicle weigh station is used frequently by truck drivers to park, check their loads, sleep or, as I am informed by residents, urinate. This area is situated in close proximity to several houses.

I have been in communication with the Department of Main Roads and members of the police force. I have also taken the matter up in an informal meeting with the regional executive director and district director of the southern region, following a public hearing of the Queensland Parliamentary Public Works Committee that was held in the Kingaroy Shire Council rooms.

Mr Purcell: And spoken to the member for Bulimba about the matter.

Mrs PRATT: I have. I have also written to the Minister, but as yet I have not received a reply, although I must admit that I have not given him a lot of time.

There are small signs marking this area as a 30-minute stop zone between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., and a no-parking area outside those times. The signs are very small and are often not even sighted by the drivers. Therefore, they have limited effectiveness. I have inspected the site and can confirm this to be so.

Several residents have made many complaints to the police and me about the noise from refrigerated vehicles, laden stock carriers and the raised voices of the drivers. The residents are feeling considerably harassed. This has prompted some of the residents to take matters into their own hands by turning on lights and spotlighting the trucks with their headlights. Now the truck drivers are feeling harassed and are retaliating. On one occasion of which I have been told, there was a typical Hollywood style vehicle chase around the streets of Nanango. There have been other instances, but I have no time to go into them now. As I have stated, the harassment is perceived to be on both sides. I have been approached by an ex-driver who came into my office to give a friendly warning that if the residents continue to harass the truck drivers, he would not guarantee their safety.

I believe that this has gone well and truly far enough. I ask the Minister to step in and solve the issue as a matter of urgency, before someone really does get hurt.
