



Speech by

GRANT MUSGROVE

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard 1 December 1999

TOWNSVILLE INDUSTRIAL PARK

Mr MUSGROVE (Springwood—ALP) (6.30 p.m.): Amongst the motions for debate at 6 o'clock there are sometimes a few lulus. This one probably takes the cake. The honourable member for Townsville outlined very eloquently what other areas were looked at around Townsville and how they were eliminated. Tonight I want to put on the record how Woodstock was selected in the first place. Again, we need to be clear about why this is being done.

This is proper long-term planning so that we can have jobs for the future. We have great raw materials in the north and the north-west. For too long we have just dug up and flogged off raw material, leaving it up to someone overseas to add value and create jobs in their country. Yet we get the best value out of raw materials by adding value to them at home, in our own country, with jobs going to our own people. Often we have heard One Nation saying that our industries are going offshore, yet the practical effect of all their actions in this place is to help drive them offshore. How many suggestions for job generation have come from One Nation members? Not many!

Woodstock was selected to undergo further investigation and field studies, because it was found, after detailed analysis of existing data, to be the most suitable area within the Townsville/Thuringowa region for future major industrial development over the next 30 years. That is right; over the next 30 years. For too long Governments have been accused of not taking enough care in planning for the future. This Government is facing attack for forward thinking. A three-step process led to the selection of Woodstock. Firstly, areas of land were eliminated because they were absolutely unsuitable for industrial development. Such areas included steeply sloping land, flood-prone land and restricted areas, such as national parks, recreational parks, urban areas and an area subject to an international treaty.

The second step was to eliminate land that was considered to be undesirable for industrial development. This eliminated land intended for or close to residential development and land adjoining national parks. Industry requirements were then taken into consideration, resulting in the reduction of the study area to four general areas, namely, Yabulu and Herveys in the City of Thuringowa, and Rocky Springs and Woodstock in Townsville City.

To further assist in the comparison process, the third step was to compare the remaining areas to determine which of the four was the most suitable location for future major industrial development. The analysis considered such factors as the environment, social impacts, economics, regional planning, transport and infrastructure. Airshed modelling of the short-listed areas was also undertaken. The outcome of this assessment revealed that the Woodstock area most closely satisfied both industry requirements and the opportunities and constraints associated with each of the study team work streams.

The northern sites considered—Yabulu and Herveys—were found to be more expensive to service with infrastructure and would also involve the transshipment of raw material and product via rail through the city and back to the port. Let me nail one of the most persistent myths peddled by One Nation, namely, that somehow waste water from Woodstock would run off into Townsville's water supply. One of the criteria for identification of a suitable site was that the industrial area would be outside the Ross River Dam catchment.

Dr Prenzler: What about air pollution?

Mr MUSGROVE: I just said that we have also looked at the air pollution issue. The honourable member would have known that if he were listening.

To ensure this, extensive aerial photography was undertaken to develop reliable contour information to enable the boundaries of the Ross River Dam catchment to be clearly identified.

One Nation Party members interjected.

Mr MUSGROVE: For the information of the members at the back of the Chamber, I point out that the consultants who put together the report, which is now available for review and public comment, have proposed that no industry be situated within that catchment, and that is fair enough.

Mr Reynolds: The process hasn't even finished.

Mr MUSGROVE: The process has not finished. If anything, this motion is somewhat premature.

With respect to the Woodstock site, all industry would be contained in the 3,500 hectare site and all waste material would be treated on site and contained within the industrial area. Woodstock would also have extensive internal and perimeter buffers. Should the Government decide to preserve this area for Townsville's future economic development, it is likely to be incorporated in the planning scheme of the local authority and zoned, quite appropriately, as future industrial land. Further, should the State Government decide to proceed, it would stand in the market to acquire land—

Time expired.
