



Speech by

JACK PAFF

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

Hansard 7 December 1999

SOUTHERN MORETON BAY ISLANDS

Mr PAFF (Ipswich West—ONP) (10.27 a.m.): On Sunday, 28 November 1999, I visited the southern Moreton Bay islands. I was invited to these islands by the island communities who are gravely concerned about their plummeting land valuations and rising rates.

I first travelled to Macleay Island where I was met by about 50 residents at Steve's Tavern. These people are concerned about the amount of rates that they have paid over the last 25 years. They have received very little return from the Redland Shire Council in the way of infrastructure. The roads on the island could only be described as a disgrace. If one travels anywhere off a road one will find that hundreds of car bodies have been dumped, owing to the council's levy on the disposal of car bodies. Rather than pay the levy, people simply dump the cars in the bush. This is creating an eyesore and an environmental hazard. I attended Macleay Island Bowls Club where I was again questioned on similar matters by many people.

I suggest that people living on the southern Moreton Bay islands have very little representation from local and State Government. I then travelled to Russell Island—

Mr HEGARTY: I rise to a point of order. I find that remark offensive and untrue and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr PAFF: If the member finds it offensive—I doubt that it is offensive—I will withdraw it.

The residents raised concerns about ferry and barge services, electricity and water levies, falling land values and high rates. There is little hope that they will receive relief from high rates as the Redland Shire Council has ignored these people. The people on the islands need their own Moreton Bay island shire council, which would enable them to manage their own economy. It would also ensure that island landowners receive the services they require.

The islands should eventually be joined by bridges from Macleay Island to Karragarra Island to Russell Island, and from Russell Island to Stradbroke Island. This would create an islands economic zone which would generate jobs and create empathy between the islands. Island families and their children could work on the islands with employment—

Time expired.
