



Speech by

JEFF SEENEY

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard 11 March 1999

NATHAN DAM; SURAT BASIN

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (10.22 a.m.): The Nathan dam and the Surat Basin development in my electorate is a project that has the potential to kick-start the economic revival of the whole central Queensland region. It could and should underpin a secure future for many communities and many thousands of families.

It has been apparent for some time that the Nathan dam project has been the subject of a factional battle within the Labor Party: on the one hand, the Minister for State Development, who has taken carriage of the project and, on the other, the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources, backed up by the infamous Socialist Left faction, who are determined to stop the development. It has become increasingly apparent that the project is hopelessly bogged down. It has become increasingly apparent that the Minister for State Development and his grunt department are being rolled by the Socialist Left and the Minister for Natural Resources. It is now apparent that the grunt department is a dud; they have been rolled. The Minister for State Development has been rolled, and he has been duded by the loony Left.

The thousands of permanent jobs that this project could create are now just an ever more distant dream.

Mr Elder interjected.

Mr SEENEY: The Minister was rolled. It would appear that the Nathan dam and the whole Surat Basin development has been successfully stopped by an unholy alliance headed up by the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources—an unholy alliance between the Socialist Left faction and the anti-everything conservation groups who represent no-one and who pursue their own selfish tunnel-visioned agenda.

Queensland needs to learn from the experiences of the past and develop the potential of our resources in a sustainable way—not search for excuses to continually do nothing and appoint the green police to make sure that nothing ever gets done. Any fair evaluation of the environmental impact studies done to date in the Dawson Valley will recognise their thoroughness and the detail they contain. But since when has the Socialist Left faction ever been fair? Any fair evaluation of the WAMP document, which sets environmental flow objectives as a first priority, will recognise the degree of environmental protection built into the project from day one. But who would expect the green police to take a balanced view?

Time expired.
