



Speech by

Hon. J. ELDER

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard 26 August 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Nelly Bay Development, Magnetic Island

Hon. J. P. ELDER (Capalaba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade) (9.40 a.m.), by leave: Running nearly as long as the National Party's dilemma about whether it is a city party or a country party has been the saga of Nelly Bay on Magnetic Island. Members would be aware that it started back in 1989, in the dying days of National Party rule, when that administration was desperate to score some points in north Queensland and thought that putting a development on Magnetic Island was the way to go. The early history of the development has been well documented, but it has been left to successive Labor Party administrations to do the actual work so that we can cover up a scar on what is a beautiful Queensland tropical island.

What we seek is a development that is environmentally acceptable and serves the needs of the growing population on Magnetic Island. Members of this Parliament would be aware of the regular reports that I have provided on progress on Nelly Bay. In the most recent statement to the House I said that the project had cleared all Federal regulations subject to certain conditions—these numbered 27 in total. Of these, the one which the Queensland Government has given priority to required the developer to consult with the Department of Transport to "ensure all possible measures are taken to maximise passenger safety at the proposed ferry berths".

This particular condition had five subsections, and working through these has been a priority of both my department and that of the Minister for Transport. We have been assisted in this by the Premier's Parliamentary Secretary in north Queensland.

The Department of Transport has completed its study into the safety issues and the finetuning associated with this will now be undertaken by the project's proponent, Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd. What this means from the viewpoint of the State Government is that all necessary environment effects have now been taken into account, opening the way for the proponent to proceed from the concept phase it has been in until now to the detailed design phase. All that remains to be done is for Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd to enter into a commercial agreement with the Government and finalise its respective lease arrangements for the project to proceed. The proponent's expectation is that over the next two months all the necessary detailed design work will be completed. This work will also address the necessary environmental requirements as outlined in the environmental assessment report that was released last May.

For far too long, Nelly Bay has been a forgotten backwater put in the too-hard basket. I note this Parliament's endorsement of our handling of Nelly Bay and point out that this Government has ensured that public access, public safety and public infrastructure will be in place at Nelly Bay for all the community—on both Magnetic Island and the mainland—to enjoy.
