



Speech by

Mr JIM PEARCE

MEMBER FOR FITZROY

Hansard 2 March 1999

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Mr PEARCE (Fitzroy—ALP) (12.32 p.m.), continuing: In winding up my contribution to this debate, I point out that there are many more issues in central Queensland and the Fitzroy electorate that could be raised. Unfortunately, time does not allow me to go into too much detail about those issues. They are issues such as Labor's commitment to the expansion of the Cool Schools program. That is already under way. That promise by the incoming Labor Government is now being delivered on. Another issue is the upgrading of important roads in the electorate, such as the Dingo-Mount Flora Road, the Ridgeland Road and the widening of the Capricorn Highway to four lanes between Gracemere and the already constructed four lanes. We need also to consider the lighting of that section of road, as it becomes quite dangerous during heavy rain and when fog moves across it.

Local authorities need greater financial assistance to maintain and upgrade important roads in their areas. Mount Morgan has a great history. We should be doing everything we can to preserve the history of that community for younger generations. I would like to win Government support for the preservation of a yet-to-be-identified precinct in the town that would see shops, hotels, schools, halls and the post office undergo structural repairs and receive a new coat of paint to ensure that they are there, strong and visible, for the community for many more years. We have a great opportunity to preserve those valuable assets in the community and we should be doing whatever we can to work with the local authority, those people who own those businesses and with those who are involved in the upkeep of those historic buildings in that community. We should be doing whatever we can to work with those different organisations and groups of people to ensure that that heritage value is protected.

It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to make this contribution in relation to the Fitzroy electorate. I look forward to being able to put in place a lot those things that I have spoken about and ensure that the people of the Fitzroy electorate get the things that they feel they deserve to get.
