



Speech by

Mrs J. SHELDON

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard 14 September 1999

Mr and Mrs Hall; Transport Department

Mrs SHELDON (Caloundra—LP) (10.15 a.m.): I wish to raise an issue that is of considerable concern to two of my constituents, a Mr and Mrs Hall, who on 28 May 1997 lost their 22 year old son to meningococcal disease. Since that time, they have been trying get an answer from the Queensland Transport Department and the Minister about their property, which they wish to dispose of and which is on the proposed alignment for the CAMCOS rail corridor. This has now been going on for over 18 months. They cannot get an adequate response from the department, and the Minister is not interested.

I wish to quote part of a letter from Bugler Francis Valuers, which the Halls have employed to try to help them in this regard. The letter states that the valuers had been advised by the Department of Transport that a date cannot be given on which they could find out what was going to happen to them. Mr Bugler states—

"Our clients are most distressed by your department's response. They have complied with your requests to attempt to sell their home and have been most tolerant in dealing with your office."

In fact, they are unable to sell their home, and that is something that I will address further in another document. Mr Bugler states—

"Where is the justice in your Government's programme? How is it possible in a democratic country that your department has the power to disadvantage people's lives and cause injury to the value of their property without compensation?"

The other day I noted that the Minister's department stated that there would not be compensation for people in situations such as these. The letter continues—

"Our clients anxiety distress exacerbated by the tragic personal circumstances they have been through feel that they have not been given a fair go."

I wish to quote letters from real estate agents. The Halls did what the department asked; they put their property on the market and they have contacted a variety of real estate agents. However, they cannot sell their property. Webber and Associates state—

"On reflection and in discussion with my Sales Staff, I believe that your property would be difficult if not impossible to sell with the cloud of uncertainty over the proposed Rail Line."

Another agent stated—

"Your property, under normal circumstances, would have wide appeal in the market place

...

I would confirm our discussions, however, that the marketplace has reacted very adversely to the announcement of the proposed railway route and this proposal will impact very severely on the likely selling price of your property."

Time expired.
