



Speech by

JOHN KINGSTON

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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RURAL QUEENSLAND; INDUSTRY SELF-REGULATION

Dr KINGSTON (Maryborough—IND) (7.28 p.m.): I rise to address two issues that were touched on earlier tonight by the honourable member for Crows Nest: firstly, the insecurity and instability in rural industries due to the lack of clear signals from the Government and, secondly, the relative effectiveness of industry self-regulation as opposed to top-down Government-introduced regulation.

Industry self-regulation requires consultation with rural producers to define common objectives that are equitable to rural producers and all future citizens of Queensland. It then requires continuing investigation of the problems of sustainable and profitable production. As self-regulating industries implement those measures, constant monitoring is required by the people on site—the producers. This is an ongoing, iterative educational process. If implemented well, it results in accord and coordination between Government and rural producers in the interests of all citizens, rural and urban.

In my electorate and in Queensland generally, canefarmers are now required by their own industry to develop an industry approved whole-farm water management plan. Such a plan is farm specific and involves a learning curve—an iterative process often called the project cycle. However, a successful total farm plan does not suddenly materialise as a result of Government regulation. If members have difficulty in accepting this, I suggest that they spend some time in the command economy countries.

In the whole of the Mary River catchment watershed, I have personally inspected stands of native timber that are obviously viable and sustainable, and that have been nurtured and selectively logged for two generations. Due to uncertainty about future Government regulation, a high percentage of those farmer/foresters are now harvesting all the millable timber while they can. I ask: when will the Government clarify and clearly define its future regulations impacting—

Time expired.
