



Speech by

JOHN MICKEL

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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NELLY BAY DEVELOPMENT, MAGNETIC ISLAND

Mr MICKEL (Logan—ALP) (6.50 p.m.): "The Government is committed to facilitating a project on the failed Magnetic Quay site on Magnetic Island. In response to issues raised by the community and government agencies during the period of public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement ... in late 1995, the preferred developers, Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd, have recently prepared a revised development proposal for the site. The developers are currently fine tuning the revised proposal prior to it being formally considered by Government. A supplement to the draft EIS to address the revised proposal will be prepared by consultants and released to the public for further comment within a couple of months." So there it is: "a couple of months". I do not know what all this fuss is about. It will all be resolved within "a couple of months".

And who said all this? None other than the Leader of the Opposition on 17 April 1997! It has now been left to the Beattie Government to put out the EIS in October 1998—18 months after the honourable gentleman temporarily sitting over there in that chair said it would be two months away. What an absolute disgrace! What a do-nothing Opposition! He is the great non-achiever, the great non-deliverer. The simple fact is that the Leader of the Opposition could not deliver a pizza, let alone deliver an outcome. He would not get a job at Domino's. Although after his last performance as Premier, and when I look at the gathering and the gaggle of stupidity opposite, I see a lot of people who fell like dominoes at the last election.

Mr Knuth: Not as stupid as you!

Mr MICKEL: The member for Burdekin is interjecting—strong as an ox but half as smart. That is the trouble with the honourable gentleman.

History shows that all through the 1990s Nelly Bay was a monument to the policies of the Bjelke-Petersen Government. Approval was given by that loyal coalitionist the then Minister for Northern Development, Bob Katter. Katter created the scar on Nelly Bay in much the same way as he continues to scar the Federal coalition. As usual, it is left to the Labor Party to fix up the mess.

Mr Knuth interjected.

Mr MICKEL: They say that people sprang from the apes, but when I look at members opposite I realise that some of them did not spring far enough. The Goss Government began a long road to try to make sense out of this incredible situation left to us by the Bjelke-Petersen Government.

Mr Knuth: I disagree.

Mr MICKEL: I knew that the member would disagree. I could hear him shaking his head. That is the trouble with the honourable gentleman. We love him dearly, but he will not be with us for much longer. He will be a bit like that scar on Nelly Bay. The Government is going to fix it all up for him, and he will disappear under the landslide when the new Labor Party candidate gets elected in Burdekin.

During the last couple of weeks we have had a bit of *deja vu* from our good friend the Leader of the Opposition. We have heard all that hand-across-the-heart stuff, how we all have to work harder and how they are all going to work night and day, even weekends. I thought to myself, "When did I last hear this?" Of course, it was when the honourable gentleman was last in Opposition. He said, "We are all going to work harder." And in an instant, the member for Broadwater was off to Bathurst—to the event where they run round and round in circles. As it turned out, it was a preliminary to what the Borbidge

Government was about on Nelly Bay. It went round and round in circles but achieved nothing. So we should take heart from the member for Broadwater when he is organising those leadership coups. The writing is on the wall for the Borbidge Opposition—the Borbidge stay-in-Opposition. At Nelly Bay, all the Borbidge Government did was go round and round achieving nothing.

We all remember the honourable gentleman saying, in those meaningless grabs, "We will hit the ground running." Remember that? "We will hit the ground running." I have it on good authority that, when he got up to the Premier's office, the burning question was not about Nelly Bay but: "Who is entitled to the mobile phones and the cars?"

Time expired.
