



Speech by

Mr J. HEGARTY

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 11 March 1999

LAMB AND KARRAGARRA ISLANDS, PONTOON JETTIES

Mr HEGARTY (Redlands—NPA) (7.02 p.m.): Pontoon jetties are planned to replace the old wooden structures on Lamb and Karragarra Islands in my electorate. The upgrade to these marine facilities is welcomed by island residents whose lives are dependent for transport and supplies on the water taxis and barges berthing at the islands.

The new infrastructure proposed, I surmise, will be similar to the type servicing ferries on the Brisbane River. Unfortunately, the Department of Transport has not kept me informed as to the progress and design detail of the project but, through my own inquiries, I understand a contract to design and construct will be signed by the Minister in a few days' time.

The wooden jetties currently in use are acknowledged as an impediment for passengers—particularly the disabled—alighting from ferries. The proposed pontoons will be much safer and provide easier access for all passengers. What the Minister should be aware of before entering into a contract to construct the new facilities is that no provision is being made to enable goods to be transported from the pontoon to the shore. I am advised that the grade of the pontoon will be similar to ramps used in shopping centres, but even they can be daunting for those carrying a load.

This brings me to the point that there are no plans to replace the existing luggage trolley on rails currently used to carry goods from the head of the jetty to the car park. This is a vital piece of equipment for island residents who are dependent on procuring their supplies on the mainland and find it difficult to transfer them from the ferries to the shore.

Another aspect needing clarification is the adequacy of the proposed infrastructure to accommodate the evacuation of patients requiring medical attention. Medical evacuees are assessed by ambulance officers as to whether air or sea evacuation is suitable. Needless to say, non-urgent cases are sent by sea because of the cost of air evacuation and the limited availability of the Care Flight helicopter. I suggest that a meeting with island residents, transport operators, emergency service personnel and other relevant parties would soon establish the type of infrastructure needed.

Time expired.
