



Speech by

Mr J. HEGARTY

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Hansard 15 September 1999

VICTORIA POINT STATE HIGH SCHOOL; FAST FOOD OUTLET

Mr HEGARTY (Redlands—NPA) (11.13 p.m.): I rise to speak about a matter affecting an educational institution in my electorate. It involves the proposal for a fast food outlet to be situated adjacent to the Victoria Point State High School. Whilst the Integrated Planning Act was not in force at the time when the local government authority rezoned the property from a zoning that did not incorporate a commercial activity, nevertheless it was well known at the time that the site adjacent to the rezoned property was designated for the future Victoria Point State High School. It was only in 1995 that the rezoning occurred. In 1997, following successful budgeting action by the coalition Government, the Victoria Point State High School was opened for enrolments.

There is currently a service station on the rezoned site. When the site was rezoned it was proposed that there would be provision for a fast food outlet to be part of the development. The service station has been operating for a couple of years, but no fast food outlet was incorporated as part of the building. However, there is now an application before the Redland Shire Council for a fast food outlet to be built adjoining the service station site. We have here an educational facility that is doing its best to provide supervision of children. The school is promoting healthy living by way of the food that it provides in the school tuckshop. This would be at odds with a fast food outlet of the type that most of us see around the State.

The Department of Education needs to have more input in relation to local government planning matters where educational facilities are going to be affected adversely by zoning decisions. As I have said, there was already ample warning that a fast food outlet could be erected on the site. Geographically, the site is not really suitable for a fast food outlet. It is isolated and is not part of the local community shopping centre. We know that fast food outlets attract a certain class of people—sometimes people in their late teens or earlier twenties and often unemployed people. This will have a counterproductive effect on the school community, which is right across the road from the proposed outlet.

I call on the Minister for Local Government and Planning, whom I notice is in the Chamber, to revisit the Integrated Planning Act to make sure that the Act does not deprive the local government authority of the power to act in the interests of the local community in such situations. I also bring to the attention of the Minister for Education the fact that this development will be detrimental to the educational facility, which is trying to promote the best interests of the student community. We must always be aware of the types of people who tend to hang out at such establishments.

I ask the Minister for Local Government and Planning to intervene in this case. I also ask the Minister for Education to take an interest in this matter, because it is of grave concern to the Victoria Point State High School community. This proposal, if it is allowed to proceed, will have a detrimental effect on that community. The Redland Shire Council is probably not in a position to be able to reject the application submitted by the proprietor of the proposed fast food outlet.
