



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 25 August 1999

NOISE POLLUTION, MOUNT OMMANEY ELECTORATE

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (11.05 p.m): Some of the most common complaints I receive every day in my electorate of Mount Ommaney are about noise and nuisance problems. Noise is a "stressor" and there are many causes of this stress.

The most prolonged issue of industrial noise in Corinda is from Simsmetal at Rocklea. Residents in Rinora, Neata and Penaton Streets state that this company starts crushing cars early in the morning and continues until late afternoon, and sometimes right through the night. There is no break for residents from this constant, aggravating noise even on weekends. What is heavy industry doing so close to a residential area?

Not only are people in Oxley and Corinda plagued by this seemingly incessant noise, but they are also affected by another environmental hazard—dust. Dust from this industry settles on the clothes on the line, in the house and on the lungs. People are so angry that they are demanding that the industry close. The local authorities have been unsuccessful in their attempts to clamp down on this company to make it conform to environmental requirements. I have referred the matter to the Minister for Environment to take the appropriate action under the State's environmental protection laws.

There is also the issue of traffic noise. The wooden noise barriers along the Centenary Highway are almost complete. Some will remember my concern about the quality of these noise barriers. Despite the barriers, noise seems to remain a problem to some residents in Sinnamon Park. The Main Roads Department was made aware of these concerns and has set up a trial near the Sumners Road end of the highway to test the effect of speed on noise. The speed limit has been reduced to 90 km/h. The department continues to take measurements in affected areas. Some residents have already advised me that it has provided some relief from the problem.

What about shop noise? There has been substantial development and renewal of the Looranah Shopping Centre over the past 12 months. This centre is proving very popular as a meeting and dining place with a number of restaurants and small businesses taking up leases. However, some residents living close by are being driven mad by the continuous noise of air-conditioning compressors operating day and night. One local resident has been pursuing the issue for the past eight months but has been unable to gain a solution. Why cannot the centre owners take local needs into consideration? Local residents are asking for a cover to be put over the compressors to stifle noise and to change the times when trucks unload to a reasonable hour. I have also taken this issue up with the Minister for Environment who is liaising with the Brisbane City Council in relation to appropriate action being taken.

Noisy swimming pool filters can also be a source of stress for people. Residents go home at night to get some rest, relax and be comfortable. They may, perhaps, wish to work in the garden on the weekend or to have a quiet, comfortable place in which to catch up on some work or to enjoy their family. Poorly sound-proofed pool filters intrude upon residents' enjoyment of their own homes and gardens. Simple sound-proof covers solve these problems at little expense to the owner, while providing great relief for the neighbourhood. The Brisbane City Council has taken action in regard to the individual concerns I have put to it where it has found a genuine problem to exist.

People in the Seventeen Mile Rocks area were becoming physically ill because of a leak in the sewer system. Several public meetings were held to discuss this issue and, following my representations to the Lord Mayor, Jim Soorley, he visited the area to personally inspect the problem. It

was not an easy problem to fix. The Lord Mayor, however, and the council sought solutions every day until the problem was rectified. The Lord Mayor has since allocated funding in this year's budget to fix the problem completely and permanently.

Sometimes it does not take much to be kind to our neighbours. We are all entitled to a fairly peaceful existence, away from stress, if we choose. With very little effort and some cooperation between residents these issues would not be issues. The alternative is to enforce laws and make them tougher so that people are forced to comply. Why not just get on?
