



Speech by

Hon. KEN HAYWARD

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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FORESTRY INDUSTRY

Hon. K. W. HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (6.52 p.m.): It is a pleasure to speak in support of the amendment. This historic regional forest agreement came about as a result of everybody getting together and talking through their problems. The conservation movement, the timber industry and the Government got together and talked through their problems. They were able to put their views strongly, and I know that they put their views very strongly, but they also listened to each other, saw each other's points of view and came up with a solution. Don't the National Party, the One Nation people and the member for Noosa hate that—the fact that a solution was able to be found? That is what the process was all about.

It has been solidly supported by many people in the community. As I said, the only people opposing it are the One Nation people, the National Party people and, of course, the member for Noosa. I think it is strangely disturbing when we are talking about One Nation that they are the people opposing it. When the prospect of a regional forest agreement first came up, its members were all about getting everybody together and talking through the differences. That happened. In this instance, once it occurred and there was a result—a positive result for the whole of the State—they opposed it.

What the National Party, the One Nation people and, of course, the member for Noosa are opposing is the prospect of getting \$36m from the Commonwealth for the industry in Queensland. That is what they are holding up and that is what they need to do, because if they do nothing about it, if they sit around like they are doing and oppose it and talk about not getting that \$36m from the Federal coalition, mark my words, they will be blamed for that and at the next State election they will suffer. There is no doubt about it; they will pay dearly for being seen to stand beside and support the Federal Government. There are a number of issues associated with what the Federal Government is doing but, believe me, if they link themselves to the Federal Government to attack people because they will not get \$36m for Queensland, they will be seen to be linked with it and, come the next State election, they will suffer for it.

Let us be quite clear here. This Government strongly supports the timber industry. We have given the timber industry, through this regional forest agreement, 25 years' security, and it has never had that length of security before. After that, there is this security of plantations. When the Federal Minister, Mr Tuckey, the National Party, the One Nation Party and the member for Noosa get together, they probably support the agreements in the other States which go for only 20 years and then they have to go through it all again—not in Queensland.

What is being offered here by this historic regional forest agreement is 25 years plus the future, and that is so important. Of course, we did not hear it all from the Nationals on the Sunshine Coast or the member for Noosa during the RFA process and the lead-up to the RFA. Now they are all over it, but they are not over it in a constructive way. Simply, if the members opposite want to be constructive, as I said before, they should be lobbying and putting pressure on their Federal colleagues, many of whom represent these areas, mind you, to get that \$36m. That is the balance of the funds that are due to Queensland.

While we are strong supporters of the timber industry, that does not mean that we want to see every tree cut down. The simple fact in relation to the Sunshine Coast is that it is worth more to have the trees still in the ground in the rainforests where people can go and see them as part of a tourist experience—it is not just about going to the beaches—than to cut them down and take them away. Do

honourable members remember the debate in the South Burnett area where the Opposition was quick to claim that we were going to decimate the South Burnett? That is what it said. We have not heard anything from its members now because in areas such as the South Burnett the timber industry is secure because whole communities are based on it.

Time expired.
