



Speech by

**Hon. K. LINGARD**

**MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT**

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Hansard 2 March 1999

**ADDRESS IN REPLY**

**Hon. K. R. LINGARD** (Beaudesert—NPA) (12.35 p.m.): I express my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen and to her representative, His Excellency the Governor. I convey also the loyalty of the electorate of Beaudesert. I am amazed and embarrassed that we are still debating the Address in Reply. Eight months after the election, we are still providing an answer to the Governor. It seems absolutely ridiculous that eight months have gone by and we still have not responded to the Governor's Opening Speech. I thank the electorate of Beaudesert for supporting me in what was a challenging period. There was a massive impact from One Nation in the neighbouring electorate of Lockyer, where in the booths next to my own electorate, over 50% of the people voted for One Nation. Also, to the north in the seat of Waterford, there was a massive swing to One Nation, as happened in the Logan electorate. I would like to think that the reason that Beaudesert did not change was the number of massive projects that have occurred there during the past three years.

The first of the massive projects was, of course, the construction of the Beaudesert Hospital, where \$11.5m has been spent on construction. Tenders for the construction of the hospital were awarded in 1998. On 13 March next, in a few days, the first patients will be taken across to the hospital. On 11 April, I understand there will be an official opening. This has been a political football for many years. Prior to 1989, Premier Cooper promised a new hospital. Premier Ahern promised a new hospital. Shadow Minister for Health McElligott also promised a new hospital in 1989. However, between 1989 and 1995 there was absolutely no movement by the then Labor Government. Fortunately, in 1996, with the change of Government, a decision was made to spend \$11.5m on a greenfield site for the new Beaudesert Hospital.

I am concerned that Rotary has asked whether it can hold a fete a few days before 13 March, when the new patients go across from the old hospital into the new hospital. That request has been declined until the Minister opens the hospital. It seems to me to be absolutely petty that people will be moved across to the new hospital on 13 March and that the public will be moving through the hospital, yet Rotary, which wanted to have a function to raise funds to provide facilities and equipment for the hospital, was refused permission for the fete on the basis that the public could not come to see the hospital until the Minister opened it in April. That seems to me to be absolutely ridiculous. It would have been an excellent time for Rotary to hold a fete and to have people moving through the hospital when there were no patients there. Rotary intended to have the fete on 11 and 12 March. That would have been an excellent fundraising activity. However, permission has been declined until the Minister opens the hospital on 11 April.

This hospital will be a new 40-bed hospital. Originally it was promised that it would be a 40-bed hospital. Unfortunately, the bureaucrats got involved. After considering the bed patterns of Beaudesert, they thought that 22 or 23 beds would be enough. I thank the previous Minister for the fact that it has stayed at a 40-bed hospital. There will be complete services for outpatients and accident and emergency. Allied and dental health services will be available there. The medical ward will be there and the maternity ward will go across to the hospital, which will also have an operating theatre, a pharmacy, reception, medical records and staff accommodation.

The old hospital, which was previously to be upgraded, will be completely demolished to make way for a car park, with the new hospital on a greenfield site. One of the other difficulties has been obtaining permission for the complete demolition of part of the old hospital, which goes back to the 1910s. It has sections historically related to the Stinson crash—one ward is called the Stinson Ward.

Fortunately, Government authorities have agreed that part of it can be removed. Hopefully that will come to Jimboomba as a respite centre. I would like to talk about that later.

I thank the previous Government and also the present Government for the granting of the Beaudesert Hospital. Until now, Beaudesert has always been on the end of the line. The south coast area saw massive population increases in and around Logan and Loganlea. Therefore, hospitals in that area took precedence. Similarly, when the increases in population occurred on the south coast, the hospitals in the Nerang area took precedence, and Beaudesert was always at the end of the line.

The second thing which was significant in the electorate of Beaudesert was the decision to build the Tamborine Mountain State High School—to spend \$7.3m, partly to take the pressure away from the Beaudesert State High School and partly to take the pressure away from the Helensvale State High School, where numbers had become quite massive. In May 1989, the construction commenced. For those members who have never had the fortunate experience of seeing a brand new high school, I can say to all of them that it is an absolute delight. The way high schools are now constructed is a credit to the Government, whichever Government it is. Previously, a couple of classrooms were built and when library facilities for Year 9 and Year 10 were necessary, the library facilities were built, and commercial facilities were built later. However, now a complete new high school has all of the performing arts theatres; it has all of the ovals, magnificently prepared; it has commerce facilities, manual arts facilities, home economics facilities and massive play areas for students. The Tamborine Mountain State High School is no exception. It will be an absolute delight for the community of Mount Tamborine. Not only the present high school students but also those people who require TAFE education and other adult education can use the facilities. When one sees a school such as the Tamborine Mountain State High School on its first day with absolutely brilliant landscaping, with facilities for performing arts—complete new drama theatres and a theatre with a seating capacity for over 250 people—technology facilities, music facilities, home economics facilities, manual arts facilities, science facilities, social science facilities, art facilities, sport facilities with a 400-metre track already built, a track to which Mount Tamborine residents had no access previously, a resource centre, staff facilities and administration facilities, that is an absolute credit to everybody concerned.

The covered links of the Tamborine Mountain State High School are constructed of stained hardwood poles, pine beams and facias and there is timber-decked bridge linking some of the buildings. Those fittings blend in with the beautiful surroundings of Tamborine Mountain. The buildings and the roofs are a soft green to blend in with the green countryside and they are rimmed in dark green forest. The red of the red earth is reflected in the concrete columns and walls rather than the old steel—

**Mr Gibbs:** You're just an old conservationist at heart, aren't you?

**Mr LINGARD:** The TV must not be on in here because, obviously, the Minister indicated something. Yes, I suppose I am, especially in relation to Tamborine Mountain. The uprights for the covered ways are toned in the natural colours of the timber and the irregularity of the timber poles are intended to relate to and enhance the natural elements of the site. I can only say to the Government a very sincere thank you from the people of Tamborine for this particular facility.

My electorate is also lucky in having another school, the Beechmont State School. Those people who have seen the massive development around Hinze Dam, Advancetown coming up through Lower Beechmont up to Beechmont itself would know how that area is increasing in population. Previously, the Beechmont State School was located on a site that had very, very severe limitations. Obviously, the land in and around Beechmont and Binna Burra is very, very hard and very costly to acquire. For a long time, previous Governments have wrestled with this problem, but finally they decided to purchase a new site near Graceleigh Park, which is used by the community and which will provide the ovals for the State school. This is a new initiative of the Education Department whereby it is prepared to access facilities that are near schools and, therefore, allow the community to access the school site itself. Although this school has a limited football field, it can now use the community field and, therefore, there is no need for such facilities to be built both at the school and also for the community. This school also has brilliant landscaping, magnificent early education centres and special school sites. Once again, the Education Department agreed that, because a house had been built on the site previously, this house would be retained and would be used as part of the school site. This house, with certain modifications, will be used for early education. Once again, the people of Beechmont are extremely lucky.

Unfortunately, one of the areas where we have not had success has been the Jimboomba State high school. Prior to 1989, the previous Government agreed that a school was necessary to take the pressure from Beaudesert High School, which now has 1,600 students and is probably the fifth largest school in Queensland. The previous Government agreed that a new school would be built at Jimboomba. However, in 1993, Minister Hamill, who I know is in the Chamber today, made an unbelievable decision that the future growth of Jimboomba could not be guaranteed. That is what his

statement said: the future growth of Jimboomba could not be guaranteed. In 1993 there might not have been the shopping centre that is there now. However, 31,000 people live in Jimboomba and only 6,700 people live in Beaudesert. The Government at that time decided to move the high school site to another site, which we have always said would never, ever increase in population as quickly as Jimboomba. Because the new site at Flagstone has not increased in population as dramatically as was thought by Minister Hamill and the previous Government in 1993, there has been no need to build a new high school. However, Jimboomba has really gone ahead and if the decision——

**Mr HAMILL:** I rise to a point of order. I inform the honourable member that I was not Minister for Education in 1993.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Reeves): Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr LINGARD:** Once again, the Minister plays with numbers. If it was not 1993, it was very, very close to 1993. He was the Minister for Education at the time so he should not try to play with numbers. If it was not 1993, it was 1992.

**Mr HAMILL:** I was not Minister for Education in 1992. Does the member want to have another guess?

**Mr LINGARD:** I ask the Minister: when was he the Minister for Education?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member to speak through the Chair.

**Mr Hamill:** Question time is tomorrow.

**Mr LINGARD:** The Minister certainly was the Minister for Education at that particular time. If I do not have the number exactly right, it was very, very close. You always play with the exact word.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member to speak through the Chair.

**Mr LINGARD:** The Minister at that time, Minister Hamill, certainly said that the future growth of Jimboomba could not be guaranteed. Anyone who goes through Jimboomba knows now that it is a massive centre and certainly the growth can be guaranteed. Certainly, if Minister Hamill had decided to leave the site for the school at Jimboomba, the Beaudesert area would have had a new high school by now.

Fortunately, I give the present Minister, Minister Wells, his due. He has agreed that a high school will be necessary. So in the year 2001, a high school should be built in the northern part of the shire. Whether the high school is built in Jimboomba or at Flagstone does not particularly worry me. However, the previous Government certainly bought a site at Jimboomba. The other thing is that the traffic on the Mount Lindesay Highway is increasing dramatically. As the Mount Lindesay Highway comes down through Jimboomba, that will be the growth corridor. The previous ALP Government decided to build the Camira bypass down through Undullah and Flagstone. That has certainly changed opinions. I ask Minister Wells to not let the Education Department influence him as it influenced the previous Ministers in the 1991-94 period. Minister Hamill was influenced and changed that opinion. As a result, Beaudesert has been affected because it cannot cater for its 1,600-plus students.

The other extreme growth that has occurred in my electorate involves the roadworks at Browns Plains. Prior to 1989 the previous Government had developed the Mount Lindesay Highway into a four-lane road as far as Johnson Road at Browns Plains. This coincided with the northern boundary of the electorate of previous Premier Goss. Previous Premier Goss always had the attitude that he did not want to be seen to be putting massive amounts of money into his own electorate. This had something to do with the public relations image he wanted to portray. Unfortunately, because a massive amount of money was not spent in Mr Goss' electorate it meant that areas to the south, such as Beaudesert, were unable to access the four-lane highway development.

Fortunately, in 1995-96 the Government decided to go ahead with the massive development of the Browns Plains interchange. We now see some \$30m being spent on an overpass at Browns Plains. This development will come through Greenbank and will allow the four-lane highway to continue to Jimboomba and Beaudesert. Until the work on the four-lane highway and the intersection was undertaken the following work could not be commenced. As a result, the Mount Lindesay Highway became an absolute nightmare for people travelling north from Beaudesert.

People who now travel between Beenleigh and Tamborine Village will notice the work being undertaken on the bridges. We have new bridges being constructed at Canungra. A new bridge is being constructed at Allan's Creek, which is in the electorate of the member for Lockyer. The Allan's Creek bridge is an extremely dangerous bridge for people travelling from Beaudesert to Boonah, but it is being replaced. I thank all the people who have been involved with this work.

The Rathdowney-Boonah Road has always been a dirt road. A massive amount of money will be required to build a causeway on this road. Fortunately, the Department of Main Roads will go ahead and bituminise that particular area.

I wish to speak about the Jimboomba day respite centre. The previous Government had allocated \$400,000 to build a respite centre at Jimboomba. People with disabilities who had left the Challinor Centre and who were going into the community needed a respite centre. It was decided to build such a centre at Jimboomba. Many people were moving into the Jimboomba area because they were able to rent cheap housing. Sometimes these people or their families suffer from disabilities. The people of Jimboomba find that they need the facilities of a respite centre.

When the Government changed, the present Government decided to withdraw that \$400,000, even though \$50,000 had already been spent on the project. I believe the Minister for Families was being petty in deciding to withdraw that \$400,000 on what she said was a legal technicality. The money was given to build a structure. There was no intention of providing recurrent funding. The structure was being built so that people could access a respite centre facility.

I know that the present Government is not keen—and never has been keen—on respite centres, whether it be respite for people with disabilities or respite for carers. Regardless of the philosophy of deinstitutionalisation—a policy which this Government pushes and which I supported, in one way, with the closure of the Challinor Centre—there is a need for respite for people with disabilities and for carers. It is ridiculous to think that disabled people can stay in the community without receiving some sort of respite and care. Carers also need a break, whether it be a daily break, an overnight break, or, in some cases, a weekly break.

Fortunately, the people of Jimboomba have banded together to try to bring the maternity section of the old Beaudesert Hospital to Jimboomba so that it can be used as a respite centre. Fortunately, the present Government, through the Department of Health and the Department of Family Services, is cooperating. However, Jimboomba will merely receive part of the old Beaudesert Hospital rather than the respite centre which the previous Government undertook to construct.

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