



Speech by

Mr L. SPRINGBORG

MEMBER FOR WARWICK

Hansard 7 December 1999

RURAL QUEENSLAND

Mr SPRINGBORG (Warwick—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10 a.m.): Never before has a minority in Queensland been subject to such vilification, discrimination and intimidation as have Queensland's hardworking farmers and graziers at the hands of the Beattie Labor Government over the past 18 months. I call on the Queensland Government to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act to ensure that this sort of vilification, intimidation and scurrilous attack cannot continue into the future.

Over the past few months the Federal Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission has been undertaking studies into the impact of Government policy on rural communities right around Australia. This Government should follow suit, because all it has done in its last 18 months in office is go around Queensland and attack the hardworking farmers and graziers in this State. As I said, never before has such a minority in Queensland been so intimidated by such vilification and misguided attack as they have experienced with this Government.

Aren't window seats wonderful? We are seeing the development of policy from 40,000 feet, while the Premier looks through a porthole window. The other day the Premier flew over inland Queensland, looked down and said, "The whole State is on fire." I do not know what else the Premier does while he is flying. Maybe he plays "I spy". It may be better if he continues to do that, because on a trip to Charters Towers, with visibility a mere 30 miles either side, he decided that Queensland was on fire and that it was all as a consequence of these dreadful farmers and graziers undertaking panic land clearing. What the Premier said the other day is no different from the scurrilous attack launched on the hardworking farmers and graziers of this State by the Minister for Natural Resources, who said, "They breed dingos for a \$10 bounty", or by the Treasurer, who said that farmers' wives will be driving the cattle truck to church or to pick up their groceries to take advantage of the diesel fuel—

Time expired.
