



Speech by

Mr LEN STEPHAN

MEMBER FOR GYMPIE

Hansard 26 August 1999

ACQUISITION OF LAND AMENDMENT BILL

Mr STEPHAN (Gympie—NPA) (4.14 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to take part in this debate on the Acquisition of Land Amendment Bill. I draw to the attention of the House a comment made by the Minister in his second-reading speech. He stated—

"This cumbersome process has become impractical due to the volume and complexity of the material provided and because the Governor in Council simply does not have the time available to consider every application in the required detail."

I find those comments quite confusing, bearing in mind that the lives of so many people are affected by the decisions that have been and will be made in relation to the acquisition of land.

People who currently own properties around Gympie are not sure whether they may be left with half of their properties or less. I recall the process of establishing Glenwood and the issue of dividing roads. Land was divided into properties, but it took five or six years for the department to make up its mind about where the roads would be situated. Under these circumstances, the family who owned the affected land, which was bought by them 25 years earlier, was trying to make a living from it. Inability to make a decision makes things difficult for those who are trying to make a living and those who want to plan ahead. The process of establishing Glenwood is ongoing.

The comment made by the Minister in his second-reading speech signals that the Minister and his department are finding it too difficult to deal with this issue, so it is put onto the backburner. That is not overcoming problems or helping the people involved. In spite of the concerns I have expressed, I commend the Bill to the House.
