



Speech by

LINDY NELSON-CARR

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard 8 June 1999

NELLY BAY DEVELOPMENT, MAGNETIC ISLAND

Ms NELSON-CARR (Mundingburra—ALP) (6.45 p.m.): I rise to support the motion and welcome the opportunity to put the views of the considerable number of my constituents who have spoken to me about this development. First of all, let me make it quite clear that I want a safe harbour for Magnetic Island. The island is rapidly becoming a major commuter suburb for Townsville. Working mums and dads are choosing to live on the island and are availing themselves of the wonderful informal environment that the island offers.

The cancer that is Nelly Bay has a long and sorry history, and the National Party is directly to blame. The original Magnetic Quay development was typical of the period it came out of. The white shoe brigade and its National Party cronies came up with you-beaut ideas for every bay, every grassy knoll, every headland, every well-placed public caravan park and every piece of attractive public land that they could get their greedy hands on. The National Party tentacles were twined around our precious public lands. They were twined so tightly that they grafted on to one another and became one. No process—dodgy, dodgy, dodgy!

This is where this development had its origins—the blackest period of National Party and Queensland history—and the people of Queensland have not forgotten. They still remember the period of the Nationals for corruption and environmental vandalism. And of course, the bubble burst. The development collapsed, but not before the magnificent headland of Bright Point had been reduced to a quarry. There it stands—a devastated piece of our magnificent heritage, desecrated and vandalised forever. Thank you, Mr Borbidge! Every time local residents look at this disaster that is Bright Point they remember the National Party and its greed, and the beauty that was once Bright Point is gone forever. The Leader of the Opposition was there at the time. I hope he is proud of this disgraceful legacy—so proud that he should agree to a renaming of this once magnificent headland. It should be renamed Hinze Point or perhaps Borbidge Point.

But time marches on, and this Government is doing the very best it can to progress the Nelly Bay clean-up through the development of a safe harbour for Magnetic Island. This Government is committing \$6m towards the clean-up of the mess the National Party left us—\$6m of public infrastructure works to provide a safe harbour and associated public facilities.

This Government and the local members, Mike Reynolds and I, are determined to see this project through. We are determined to get the best possible outcome for the people of Magnetic Island and for the thousands of visitors who daytrip to and holiday on this magnificent island. This Government and the local members will deliver the outcomes and in the process Mike Reynolds and I will advocate on behalf of our constituents to get the best outcomes. If we have doubts, we will put them to Government and argue the case through the process.

I have grave doubts about the safety of the proposed ferry terminal siting and I have expressed these doubts. Surely this is my public duty. I owe my constituents this advocacy and, as such, I will not be silenced. The ferry terminal is at the harbour entrance, where the wave action is greatest. I firmly believe it should be redesigned and I have and will use the process available to me to argue this point. I have doubts about the design and I am not alone in this view, as the member for Townsville has already expressed. Now, regrettably, there are some players around the edges of this development who think that to express a view the slightest contrary to theirs is not to be tolerated. These are not the

elected representatives of anyone. Thuggery that was part of the culture of the National Party of the 1980s is unacceptable under the Labor Party of the 1990s. I am confident that I speak for the overwhelming number of residents in Townsville.

I commend the Government for the efforts it has made to deliver the best possible outcomes for Nelly Bay. We inherited a collapsed development project, a destroyed headland, a devastated corner of a once magnificent beach and an obligation to local residents to deal with the disaster. We are also intent on delivering a safe ferry berth on behalf of families, the aged, the disabled and hundreds of commuters who use the ferry service on a daily basis. I am confident that the Government will deliver and deliver well.
