



Speech by

Mrs E. CUNNINGHAM

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard 4 March 1999

THE AUSSIE PIE

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—IND) (7.10 p.m.): I rise on behalf of bakers in my electorate and across Australia to defend the humble Aussie pie. Love it or hate it, the Aussie pie is an icon. Hot with a splotch of tomato sauce at the footy or cold with a hot beer at a so-called iron-man contest, it is a winner. We knew what was in it, including flour, butter, water, salt, mince—at least 25%—lots of gravy and a few surprises, but all of the surprises were approved.

Now what are we likely to face? It is said that we could face things such as lungs, udders, genital organs and mucous membranes. Who wants to eat a pie like that—with mucous membranes?

One commentator has said that it is going to be like eating dog food. Okay, so we have different pies: grab a bit of pastry, slop a bit of dog food on there, put a cap on it, add tomato sauce and we're back. Is anyone going to buy that? I don't think so.

Bakers in our area are up in arms. They have said, "We're not going to change our recipes. We are still going to produce a healthy hot Aussie pie." But what are the consumers going to think? They are going to find out that one baker somewhere in some little hovel has decided to go the cheap way. They will have put some lung, genital organs, udders and mucous membranes in their pies with some gravy. The bad publicity will get out. People will buy only one, and then the Aussie meat pie will have a bad reputation forever. I say that if we are doing this just to keep up with the New Zealanders, we should leave them to their own pies. I think we should keep up our own Aussie standards of having good, hot, healthy pies.
