



Speech by

**Mr M. ROWELL**

**MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

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Hansard 14 April 1999

**ACQUISITION OF LAND, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT**

**Mr ROWELL** (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (10.13 a.m.): I raise the case of a freehold landowner in the Tully district who has been forced to sell a substantial part of his land to the Department of Environment. Luis Pajares has now received three interim conservation orders, which have been extended to 90 days, on an area of land that has regrowth and forest, on the pretext that it is mahogany glider habitat.

On 3 March 1998, then Minister Brian Littleproud and Mr Pajares signed a map which defined the agreed boundaries for the acquisition of the land considered to have environmental values. I was present at that meeting and I table the map.

It would appear that, due to the bloody-mindedness of the staff of the Department of Environment, the agreement reached between Mr Pajares and then Minister Littleproud was not honoured. Mr Pajares has now been told that he must front up to a meeting with the Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency, Barry Carbon, on Sunday, 18 April at the Ryan Community Centre at Kirwan, Townsville. He has to deliver a price for the forced sale of a substantially increased area of his freehold property. This is nothing less than standover tactics, and the Premier should intervene in this matter.

Mr Pajares has been treated unfairly and is requesting that when an agreement is struck with a Minister of the Crown it should be adhered to. Usually commitments of this nature made by a Government are carried out by the Government that succeeds it, but that is not the case with this Beattie Government. There is nothing more demoralising than being subjected to the confiscation of your property at the hands of people who have no regard for your personal endeavours. The honouring of agreements is an important principle that must be adhered to.

Time expired.

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