



Speech by

Mr N. ROBERTS

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Hansard 9 March 1999

CLEAN-UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Mr ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (10.23 a.m.): I take this opportunity to congratulate the organising committees for Clean Up Australia Day, which was held last Sunday, 6 March. I also thank the many volunteers who turned up all over Queensland to join with thousands of other Australians in cleaning up our parks, streets and waterways. This year I participated for the fifth time and assisted a willing band of workers at Nudgee Beach, which is adjacent to the Boondall Wetlands.

Clean Up Australia Day is a unique event. It is probably unparalleled in the world and it should receive our continued and increasing support. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the event, which was originated by Ian Kiernan, who highlighted the need for a coordinated strategy to clean up the environment in which we live. It is timely, therefore, to make some comment about Clean Up Australia Day which I hope will be taken as a constructive criticism and in an endeavour to involve more Queenslanders in the annual clean-up.

While it might have been a pleasant 21 degrees in Melbourne last Sunday, throughout Queensland it was a sweltering 30 degrees plus up and down the coast, and in the mid thirties in our inland centres. Calling on volunteers to toil in the sun in such temperatures is a big ask, particularly given our campaign to limit exposure to the sun during the hotter months. It is time for the national organising committee for the Clean Up Australia campaign to reconsider the timing of this great event. I suggest that the event be moved to at least the end of March or another month when the temperatures in Queensland would be much milder. Queenslanders have rallied behind this event since its inception. A cooler time of the year would hopefully encourage more people to volunteer their time and effort to clean up this wonderful country of ours.
