



Speech by

Mr N. ROBERTS

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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MILLENNIUM BUG

Mr ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (10.22 a.m.): The Department of State Development is to be applauded for taking steps to help resolve the year 2000 millennium bug problem. Its year 2000 Queensland Business Work Book outlines how businesses can prepare to deal with this issue. I urge all businesses to get a copy and to make good use of it.

The millennium bug problem has been estimated to cost Australian business around \$10 billion to fix, and worldwide around \$600 billion. This is a massive amount of money for a problem that could have been avoided in the first place. Just how the computer industry can defend its position on this issue is beyond comprehension. I understand that non-compliant computer systems are still being sold throughout Australia.

This debacle will be remembered as one of the greatest scams of the millennium. Computer companies have known of this problem for decades, yet they continued to perpetrate a massive deception upon the entire world. I am told that the Brisbane City Council purchased a year 2000 compliant system way back in the 1960s. If the computer industry knew of this chronic defect 30 years ago, why did it not take action then to address the problem and minimise the costs that we all have to bear now?

In my opinion, the cyberspace shysters in the computer industry who have made millions on the back of this deception should be made to face up to their responsibilities. I challenge them to publicly state what contribution they will make to fix up a problem that they have created. Perhaps every business forced to pay to fix this problem should seek reimbursement by forwarding an invoice direct to their computer and software manufacturer, but my advice would be: do not rely on computer records to back up your claim; make sure you have a hard copy of any invoice, just in case.
