



Speech by

**Mr N. ROBERTS**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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Hansard 25 May 1999

**COMMUNITY HALL, BANYO/NUDGE**

**Mr ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (11.12 p.m.): A new community hall is required to service local school and community needs in the suburbs of Banyo, Nudgee, Northgate, Virginia East and Nudgee Beach. In my opinion, the best location for such a facility would be in the grounds of the centrally located Banyo State High School.

The announcement of the relocation of the Australian Catholic University to the Banyo Seminary site sometime between 2002 and 2004 has highlighted a range of development opportunities. Areas where opportunities exist include public transport, policing, local businesses, our schools and the community generally. One of the key needs of the area is for a new sport and community centre that will meet the needs of our local schools and sporting and community organisations. I want to work closely with the community to achieve that goal.

Currently, the area has a number of small halls generally located on church grounds. They are not adequate to address the growing recreational needs of the district. There is a need for a much larger facility to cater for indoor sports activities as well as other community and recreational pursuits. Our local school students currently travel as far as Sandgate to access decent hall facilities to conduct awards presentations, theatrical performances and school dances. For many years, the old Banyo Memorial Hall met the needs of this community. It was a place of activity and memories for many local residents. Unfortunately, in mid 1998 the hall had to be demolished.

Studies undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources, which owns the hall, identified that it would be uneconomical to refurbish it. The Banyo sub-branch of the RSL has since constructed a new memorial park on the site. This was completed just in time for its grand opening on Anzac Day this year. The memorial is a lasting tribute to the men and women who made tremendous sacrifices on our behalf and is a credit to the local sub-branch who put so much time and effort into the project.

With the memorial now complete, it is time to consider options for providing a new community and school hall facility for the area. There are three main options for consideration: firstly, do nothing and allow the Department of Natural Resources to sell the remaining land where the old hall once stood, and I think this would be unacceptable to the majority of local residents; secondly, build a new hall on the existing site; and, thirdly, build a new hall on the grounds of the Banyo State High School.

Whereas there are legitimate grounds for constructing a new facility on the old memorial hall site, the enormous fundraising requirements for this proposal make it less attractive than the alternative of the Banyo State High School grounds. It is also questionable whether the site could contain a facility which would be large enough to meet the broad range of activities that need to be accommodated. The cost of constructing a basic hall facility which contains space for activities such as indoor netball or basketball, a stage, canteen, storage and office facilities could be as high as \$500,000.

As the currently available funding programs provide for dollar-for-dollar subsidies, this would necessitate the local community or local organisations raising up to \$250,000 to access these programs. This is a major task, and accordingly the community needs to seriously consider all available options to achieve this important goal.

One advantage of the Banyo State High School site is the availability of a wider range of funding options. These include dollar-for-dollar grant programs from both the Department of Sport and the Department of Education. Subject to community acceptance, it could also include moneys acquired

from the sale of the remaining land previously occupied by the old Banyo Memorial Hall. This money would provide a unique kick-start to the significant fundraising efforts that will be required to build a new hall facility for the area. The land containing the new RSL memorial park has been separated out on a lease that has been granted to the State branch of the RSL and consequently would not be a part of this proposal.

Recently, the Minister for Education announced a school and community capital innovations program which seeks to encourage the innovative and joint usage of school facilities by both schools and the wider community. A community hall built at Banyo High would achieve this objective and provide a vital social and recreational hub for the district. The hall could provide meeting space for local community groups and clubs, indoor sports facilities, a stage for cultural events and, at the same time, a suitable assembly venue which would relieve local schools of the trials of conducting major school functions as far away as Sandgate or the Carseldine campus of the QUT.

This is a significant issue which will require a great deal of local community support and initiative. I am prepared to facilitate the process needed to work towards achieving this goal. Without appropriate community support and assistance we will not secure the community and school hall facilities we need. Over the next few weeks, I will be calling a public meeting to discuss this issue. It is an important issue for the communities of Banyo, Nudgee, Northgate, Virginia and Nudgee Beach. I look forward to discussing this project with those communities and working with them to achieve something worth while for our current and future generations.

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