



Speech by

Dr PETER PRENZLER

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

Hansard 29 October 1999

SOUTH BANK CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL

Dr PRENZLER (Lockyer—ONP) (11.21 a.m.): This South Bank Corporation Amendment Bill makes improvements to the South Bank Parklands, including a new retail, residential and commercial area and a pedestrian and cycle bridge to extend from the Maritime Museum at South Bank across the river to the Botanical Gardens. The Premier and the Lord Mayor seem quite pleased with themselves over these latest redevelopment plans for South Bank. They envisage South Bank as "one of the great city parklands and open spaces in the world"—a boost to Brisbane's brilliant "livable city" reputation.

Although there are many, many causes that could make better use of the money being spent on this project, I feel specifically for those people in rural and regional Queensland—Queenslanders who are struggling to make ends meet, to keep their businesses viable, their families clothed, fed and educated and their communities functioning. Rural communities are doing it tough. In my electorate of Lockyer, for instance, we have several deserving cases for Government funding and assistance, not the least of which is the plight of several local families whose homes are under threat from erosion of the banks of Lockyer Creek at Helidon. For a mere \$500,000, they could be relocated and their shattered lives could be put back together again.

As my colleague the member for Hervey Bay would attest to, another example of neglect is the dangerous section of goat track that passes as the Bruce Highway over the Gunalda Range. \$13m would make a significant contribution towards removing this life-threatening section of road. Another issue brought to my attention by the member for Hervey Bay is the restoration of the pier. Excuses, hard-luck stories—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr D'Arcy): Order! I tolerated the member for Caboolture's speech. Lenient as we can be during debates on second-reading speeches, the member is really on a budgetary subject that is far removed from the current Bill before the Parliament. I will listen with a great deal of intent to the rest of the member's contribution, but I suggest that he get back to the Bill.

Dr PRENZLER: Even a fraction of that amount would be a blessing to the many hardworking community groups that are constantly striving to improve the lot of the less fortunate in the community. Every dollar spent on the problems arising in modern society is an investment in the future, and certainly a more worthy cause than a footbridge to benefit a few.

As I mentioned when I began to speak, this Bill allows more development of South Bank, including a footbridge, which we are all well aware will cost the Government many millions of dollars—money that would be far better spent, in my opinion, and would provide a far greater benefit if it was spent elsewhere on a multitude of more deserving and socially productive causes.

We are unable to support this Bill, and we make it clear for the record that One Nation opposes such a waste of public funds when more urgent and important areas are suffering through a lack of funding.