



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 15 September 1999

COMMUNITY-BASED REFERENDUM BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (10.30 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the member for Caboolture's Community-Based Referendum Bill. I note that numerous speakers and writers have spent considerable time comparing my Citizens' Initiated Referendum (Constitution Amendment) Bill with this Bill. Although different in content, there is one basic similarity between these two Bills, and that is that both seek to deliver to Queenslanders the opportunity to have a greater say in the law-making process of this great State.

The Bill of the member for Caboolture is much more detailed than mine was, because my proposal consisted of two parts. The first part of the proposal was for a constitutional amendment to facilitate a citizen's initiated referendum. Secondly, if Parliament supported the constitutional amendment, then a detailed machinery provision would be presented to Parliament for its consideration. My Bill was debated and consequently defeated by the combined weight of the Labor Party and the coalition in this House last November. It seems to me that, after listening to the contributions to this debate by the Attorney-General and the shadow Attorney-General, this Bill is destined to follow mine to the parliamentary scrap heap. The writing is on the wall and, unfortunately, this Bill, in common with mine, is doomed. Although I support it in principle, I see no prospect of it ever seeing the light of day.

I will not rehash the old arguments and go over old ground but will say simply this: until this Parliament has as its members people who are committed to citizens' initiated referendums, I am convinced that it will not find a place in this State's legislation.
