



Speech by

Hon. RUSSELL COOPER

MEMBER FOR CROWS NEST

Hansard 25 March 1999

CONSULTATION WITH RURAL QUEENSLANDERS

Hon. T. R. COOPER (Crows Nest—NPA) (10.28 a.m.): Recently the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Borbidge, and I toured Townsville, Tully, Ingham, Innisfail, Cairns and a place called Bluewater Spring, which is about two and a half hours west of Townsville, to meet with cattlemen, cattlemen and people concerned with land care issues, such as parthenium weed and other forms of noxious weed, National Competition Policy and many other issues. We also met with banana growers, pawpaw growers, canefarmers and the representatives of the sugar industry. We found that the reception was good, but that there are people who are sceptical and cynical as far as politicians of all descriptions are concerned. They are extremely concerned about being hurt and neglected and about their voice not being heard.

I am concerned, particularly for those people who have been hurt by the recent floods. We do need to have a major summit as far as the Federal Government, State Government, local government and those producers organisations are concerned in order to restructure and——

Time expired.
