



Speech by

Mr T. MALONE

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Hansard 10 November 1999

SUGAR INDUSTRY BILL

Mr MALONE (Mirani—NPA)(3.30 p.m.): I would like to record a few short words in respect of the Bill. With the passing of the Sugar Industry Bill, today is quite an historic day. Its genesis was back in late 1991 when the Goss Government brought in the revised sugar legislation, with a review to be undertaken five years later. In 1996, the time for that review fell due and the Sugar Industry Review Working Party was formulated and spent quite a lot of time working through the issues.

Certainly, many of the recommendations of that working party have been included in this legislation. However, it is quite amazing that quite a lot of issues that have come forward—

Mr Welford interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Reeves): Order! The Minister for Environment will not interject from other than his own seat.

Mr MALONE: It seems that quite a number of issues have come forward and been included in this legislation that were never recommendations of the Sugar Industry Review Working Party. I think that the way in which workers, farmers and people involved in the industry have put forward their views in respect of this matter is quite historic. Indeed, if it had been up to the Government, this Bill would have been passed in August without any amendments at all. I think that it is historic that the Government has accepted more than 23 amendments to the legislation, simply because people have had their say. I think that that is fortunate. I have to say that I think this legislation is far better because of that. I know that, from the Government's point of view, it is rather frustrating to deal with amendments. Quite frankly, the Opposition has worked hard to try to put forward views that are acceptable to all.

At the end of the day, I think that the legislation is better for it. Even though it is not entirely as the Opposition would like, I think that it is as good as we are going to get from this Government. Let us hope that it all works well in the future and is perhaps reviewed, as the Minister indicated that he would review it if there were any problems.
