



Speech by

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Hansard 25 March 1999

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Hon. T. M. MACKENROTH (Chatsworth— ALP) (Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities) (4.20 p.m.), in reply: I thank the Opposition for its support for the amendments to the Integrated Planning Act. One thing that I would say to the Opposition spokesperson is that, in relation to PEDAs and IPAs, I have never tried to take credit one way or the other for the legislation. It was a joint effort. In the two and a half years that Di McCauley was the Minister for Local Government and Planning, I worked with her on segments of this legislation in terms of talking to her about it, giving her my views and hearing what her Government's views were. It is not a case of anyone taking credit for actually getting the legislation into the House. It is a fact that the legislation started when I was the Minister and, in terms of being introduced into the Parliament, the legislation finished whilst Di McCauley was the Minister.

I think that it is better planning for all of Queensland. The job that we, the Opposition spokesperson and I, now have is to ensure that it works. That is going to require not just these amendments but some further amendments over the next couple of years. However, everyone in Queensland will benefit if we make the legislation work and work properly.

The Opposition spokesperson raised an issue in relation to the Stock Act. Under the provisions of this legislation, no-one loses a permit. The permits stay. However, they are being shifted from the Stock Act because they have become redundant in relation to that legislation, and they are going under the Environmental Protection Act. We will be picking up the assessment under IDAS through the IPA. So that is what is happening. No-one loses out; it is just an administrative change in the way in which they are being handled, and the amendments effect that change.

The member for Cunningham raised the issue of levee banks. This week, I have met with two councils that have concerns about levee banks in their shires. I think that the major concerns are not to do with IPA but with the amendments that were made in 1993 when the Local Government Act came into being, where we took away from councils the right to make decisions without immunity from prosecution. So if a council makes a decision, legal action is able to be taken against it by individuals. That has created a problem.

Decisions on levies are now being assessed under the IPA. I think that the whole issue needs to be looked at. I gave both councils that I met with this week a commitment that, in terms of the Local Government Act and the Integrated Planning Act, I will look at how approvals are given and how they are able to operate and control levee banks within their council areas. So we will do that.

I thank members for their support. It is important that these amendments are passed today, as provisions come into place on 30 March.
