



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

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

Mr ELLIOTT (Cunningham—NPA) (4.15 p.m.): I want to say a few words in relation to the Integrated Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill because I believe it shows some commonsense. It is good to see some common ground between both sides of politics. It is rare that we see that situation in this House. It is something for which we should all strive. The people of Queensland get very sick of the lack of cooperation and agreement in politics.

Back in the 1980s I was Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and the Arts. At that time I flagged a system along these lines and acted on it to some extent. That was an attempt to work out with industry and people involved in development in this State the areas of Queensland in which they were interested. For instance, we went to the Mining Council and we said, "You flag all your areas of interest. Tell us the areas that you feel may be of interest to you in the long term and we will mark those onto areas where we have interests concerning national parks." We asked the tourist industry to tell us of areas where they were interested in establishing resorts. We asked CSR to tell us the areas where it had an interest in growing macadamias and other major plantations. Our idea was to mark out these areas and thus relieve us of some hassles which may come to light in the future.

We had developers coming along and suggesting that they would establish major undertakings which would result in tremendous development and job creation in Queensland. As a result of our flagging system we would be able to allow some fast-tracking of development. I guess one could say that the current Integrated Planning Act is aimed at doing the same sort of thing.

I believe the Minister is an eminently practical person. I have always found him to be a man of commonsense. One could go to this Minister and ask him something and he would say yes or no. One always knew where one stood with this Minister. I am pleased to see this legislation before the Parliament. We have to look hard at the legislation. Some balancing has to take place.

Today I attended with a deputation to the Minister where this very issue was discussed. I believe this legislation is a step in the right direction. It is vital that our local authorities be able to carry out their role. The Waggamba Shire Council undertook a flood plain study. The study took a long time and cost some \$2m. It is the most advanced and technically interesting study of this type that has been undertaken anywhere in Australia, if not in the world.

The Waggamba Shire Council is able to predict the course of floods. There is a map on the wall of the shire council chamber which shows where major floods have gone through the shire. As the flood moves through the shire it is possible to see what areas are inundated. All this information is on computer. If people want to put in levee banks the council is able to say, "If you do this, we believe this area will be affected." The council can say, "Yes, that will be fine" or, "No, if you do that, it will have a bad effect on other people." We have to look at these things and work in with this legislation.

As I said, I tried to introduce something in the 1980s which would make people's lives easier. In the past we had to run the gauntlet of so many different departments in order to get something done. That stopped a lot of development in Queensland. This type of thing occurred under both coalition and Labor Governments. At last it is good to see some agreement. I support the Bill.