



Speech by

Tony ELLIOTT

MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM

Hansard 14 April 1999

GOONDIWINDI STATE SCHOOL

Mr ELLIOTT (Cunningham—NPA) (11.18 p.m.): The topic that I raise might be termed "outhouses". We hear people talk about outhouses and people have been described as being built like an outhouse. The son of a constituent of mine is a fellow called McIntyre who used to play front row for the Wallabies. They said he was built a little like that. My interest in the topic tonight is the good Premier's ability to find \$7,500 for a brick outhouse at Kilkivan. I have nothing against the good people of Kilkivan and I am sure that they are very deserving of this particular grant. However, one might say that they got a double dip, because not only did they get \$7,500 from the Premier from some special, wonderful, magical fund, but they also got \$7,500 from the local government. We were told about this wonderful example of the can-do Government action, that is, the grant of \$7,500 for this particular public facility.

The Goondiwindi State School could have used some of that money. Goondiwindi is right on the border. It gets very hot there, yet a State school full of children is the only public building in the town that does not have airconditioning. Up north the Premier set a precedent by deciding that he would deliver on the commitment of the previous Government. The Government decided that it would be good to aircondition the school at Moranbah. Unlike the Moranbah State School, the Goondiwindi State School is old fashioned and does not have any modern building materials, for example, insulation batts, reflective foil or any other type of insulation in the ceilings.

It gets every bit as hot in Goondiwindi as it does in central Queensland. But this Government is not interested in the kids at the Goondiwindi State School. They have to put up with temperatures of up to 46 degrees Celsius in their classroom because they are not in a Labor electorate. This hypocritical Government can spend \$7,500 in one area and yet it is not prepared to address the needs of a school that is being disadvantaged severely.

If one decides to misbehave and offend against the good peace of Goondiwindi, one is thrown in the airconditioned lock-up. However, even when it is 46 degrees Celsius, if one is unfortunate enough to have to send one's children to the non-airconditioned Goondiwindi State School, that is just bad luck. Those kids cannot be sent to the lock-up; they are not wanted there. The students are taken out under the trees. They are being treated as second-class citizens.

Nothing like that happens just over the border at Boggabilla. We hear talk about the disadvantages at Boggabilla and Toomulla, but all of the buildings in those places are airconditioned. All I am saying is this: let us see some can-do action. Charity begins at home. Let us see a bit of assistance for the good people of Goondiwindi. What did they do wrong?

Mr Sullivan: Why didn't your Minister do it?

Mr ELLIOTT: The money had been promised for Goondiwindi. In a town that had experienced 12 floods—it was half wrecked and half of the contractors had gone broke—they still managed to raise a massive amount of money to start putting airconditioning into the school. What did members opposite give them? Nothing! The Government said, "Tough luck. You're not in a Labor electorate. But we can give Kilkivan \$7,500." I have nothing against Kilkivan. It is a wonderful area with wonderful people. A precedent has been set by the Premier. Let us see him do something about it in Goondiwindi.

Time expired.
