



Speech by

Hon. T. McGRADY

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

Hansard 22 July 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Old Mine Subsidence, Dinmore

Hon. T. McGRADY (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development) (10.10 a.m.), by leave: The Queensland Government and the Ipswich City Council will form a partnership to address problems caused by old mine subsidence in Queen Street, Dinmore. The partnership is in response to a geotechnical engineering report on the mine subsidence.

I initiated structural and geotechnical reports on the area following incidents of subsidence earlier this month. The initial engineering report has stated that some of the houses in that area of Queen Street could be threatened by potential subsidence. On learning this, I immediately met with the Mayor of Ipswich to agree on a course of action. Our main concern is to develop a strategy to ensure that people living in the affected area are aware of the problem and are given a reasonable course of action.

We have decided that, as a matter of public safety, residents should be given the option of relocating as soon as possible. To ensure that this situation does not recur, the council and the Government are prepared to purchase the eight properties involved for demolition or possible relocation.

I have visited the residents to tell them of the situation. We are also contacting the owners because some of the properties are rented. All residents will be offered temporary accommodation, if required, to make the relocation less traumatic.

I wish to place on record my thanks to my colleague the Minister for Housing, the Honourable Rob Swarten, for his timely assistance with this matter. I also wish to acknowledge the tireless representations on this matter made by the local member, the Honourable Bob Gibbs.

I believe we cannot force people to move, but for reasons of public safety we are strongly recommending that this course of action be adopted. I am pleased to say that this Government and the council have acted very promptly on this issue to ensure the safety of people in that area.
