



Speech by

**Tony ELLIOTT**

**MEMBER FOR CUNNINGHAM**

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Hansard 14 September 1999

### **BEATTIE STEALTH TAX**

**Mr ELLIOTT** (Cunningham—NPA) (10.27 a.m.): I wish to draw the attention of the House to an example of how the new BST, that is the Beattie stealth tax, will affect the small schools of Queensland. Let me quote the case of the historic Ramsay State School. While the permanent buildings are sound and adequate for the task, were this school to close, their value would be very minimal indeed. Under both this Government and our previous Government, they probably would be offered to sporting outfits, the scouts or another such organisation and probably would be given for nothing or, at most, \$500.

What would happen under this proposal, and I put this example up at the meeting yesterday? Those schools will be valued at their replacement cost; they will not be valued at the value that I am talking about. We will see an absolute decimation of small schools across this State. That incentive has always been there. I have walked over hot coals under about five different Governments to keep this particular school open. Now this Government is going to use this new system by stealth to say, "Never mind about what is best for the kids, we will bus them into Toowoomba."

**A Government member** interjected.

**Mr ELLIOTT:** That is not dishonest and the member opposite knows it. He should hang his head in shame that he is associated with this decimation of small schools, because that is what it is going to be. As a former teacher, he should know better than anybody in here that this will be absolutely disastrous to all the small schools in this State. The people opposite should be ashamed of themselves.

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