



Speech by

Hon. V. LESTER

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

Hansard 25 May 1999

MAHOGANY GLIDER HABITAT, LANDOWNER COMPENSATION

Hon. V. P. LESTER (Keppel—NPA) (10.17 p.m.): I draw the attention of the House to the plight of the land-holders being affected because mahogany gliders may be located on some of their land. I wish to highlight their plight for fair compensation and the thuggery being dished out by the Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency. In respect of some of the land that is to be taken from these people, to date there is no evidence that these animals are located in these areas; it is merely stated that they might be.

The landowners have had to put up with much, with miserable compensation being offered. For example, upon their reaching agreements with DNR, the Environmental Protection Agency rejects those agreements. If the Environmental Protection Agency agrees with the land-holder, the DNR then disagrees, and everything is again put on hold. Transfers of departmental staff of both departments often mean that agreements that are reached are overturned and yet again put on hold.

For example, one aquaculture farmer, in stage 1 of some 12 stages, has had his project put on hold. He is even being subjected to spying from the air. Officers in planes are checking that he is not doing any further work. Now he is being told that nutrient waste from his small operation which is being fed into the mangroves is a problem because it might make the mangroves grow bigger. What is going on? The other day I was in another fellow's house when he was phoned by officers from the Environmental Protection Agency and told very bluntly that he should accept their terms in 24 hours or his property would be resumed.

Time expired.
