



Speech by

**BILL FELDMAN**

**MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE**

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Hansard 24 August 2000

**APPROPRIATION BILL, ESTIMATES COMMITTEE E**

**Mr FELDMAN** (Caboolture—CCAQ) (12.28 p.m.): In joining this Estimates debate I want to address certain issues pertaining to the portfolio of State Development and Trade and, in particular, to address the local content policy that has been touted by the Deputy Premier. I noted with reserve his comments on local content policy in a ministerial statement on 22 June, which appears in Hansard at pages 1852 and 1853. He actually says—

"One of the priorities of this Government is to put as much work locally as possible into major projects."

He goes on—

"Not for the first time, members opposite have a record, and Queenslanders remember that record. By contrast, the policy of this Government is to work with proponents of major projects, and for the first time in this State we have a local content policy."

I actually felt warm and fuzzy when I heard those words. I thought that finally someone was going to address the City Country Alliance policy of supporting local business, supporting a local content policy and buying local.

I then received a call from a local Rockhampton businessman, Mr Peter Schuback of Mineral and Mine Movers. He informed me of his involvement in the past with the US, Australian and New Zealand military manoeuvres off the Queensland coast and the Shoalwater Bay training area. His company assisted greatly in the combined exercise of Tandem Thrust 97. He has complimentary letters from the US military, including letters of appreciation from Lieutenant Commander Bruce Lemler of the US navy, the lead contracting officer. The letter expressed appreciation for his diligence, his expertise and his flexibility in meeting short-fuse requirements, reacting to last-minute changes and ensuring the successful movement of personnel and equipment. It was stated that this was highly commended by the US military.

Tandem Thrust 2001 is coming up. This same man requested to support the US military once again. Peter Schuback requested support from Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd, a State Development and Trade sponsored venture of alleged support for local businessmen, yet no assistance was given. Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd should support major projects. Tandem Thrust 2001 will be a major project. I am led to believe that Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd has received somewhere in the vicinity of \$780,000 in Government assistance over the past three years. I also believe that Rockhampton Enterprise Ltd was allocated some \$30,000 for a database of local military suppliers. It is supposed to have completed that database of local military suppliers for military access for such a venture as Tandem Thrust 2001. These businesses should have at least been contacted and advised to contact Mr Schuback, who was the contact the US military was going to use due to his close business relationship developed in the past.

**Mr ELDER:** I rise to a point of order. For the information of the member, Mr Schuback was assisted through REL with a list. However, there are letters I can show the member that the US military has not heard of him. It may be that one arm or some officer has heard of him, but I can show the member that file. In courtesy to the member, I accept his point, but he should be careful about where it leads. I am quite happy to show the member the file.

**Mr FELDMAN:** I thank the Minister. The point I was making is that I was assured by Ross Rolfe from the Office of State Development that this was being looked at. However, I was also told by Peter Schuback that he still has not received that list. I spoke to him as late as this morning to verify those details. He assured me that he has not received any such advice. He has even placed advertisements in newspapers of his own accord for people to contact him who can assist him with car hire firms, office equipment, hire companies, computer firms, office suppliers and printers. Therefore, he is developing his own database in relation to that so he can assist local businesses and suppliers in Rockhampton. As I say, that was the advice he gave me as late as this morning.

Minister, I do not know where the discrepancy is, but that is exactly what Mr Schuback told me this morning. Perhaps I should have a tete-a-tete with the Minister later to sort out what is going on in Rockhampton. However, from what I have been told, this is certainly not helping local business. Something needs to be done. Local content policy is an initiative that needs to happen to support and look after local businesses. In light of that, I will talk to the Minister later to try to sort something out. As I said, something needs to be done and local business needs to be supported.

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