



Speech by

BRUCE DAVIDSON

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard 21 June 2000

MRS B. HARWOOD

Mr DAVIDSON (Noosa—LP) (10.27 a.m.): I wish to bring to the attention of the House yet another cowardly attack on a member of the general public by the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing. In yet another demonstration of his thuggery, Minister Swarten has come out and publicly attacked the Rockhampton Queenslander of the Year. In response to the announcement of Mrs Barbara Harwood of the Rockhampton and District Promotion and Development Association as Rockhampton's Queenslander of the Year, the Minister criticised this recognition of her hard work.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I rise to a point of order. It is untrue, it is offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DAVIDSON: I will withdraw whatever the Minister finds offensive. As for Mrs Harwood—

Mr SCHWARTEN: Just to explain to the honourable member, what I find offensive is his remark that I attacked Barbara Harwood. That is untrue.

Mr DAVIDSON: As for Mrs Harwood, whom I got to know through my time as the Minister for Tourism, she can only be described as an extremely hardworking and dedicated member of the Rockhampton community who continues to work over and above any remuneration which she receives. This is a belief also supported by Ms Andrea O'Connor, who nominated Mrs Harwood for the award and commented that Mrs Harwood works seven days a week, puts in 500% for Rockhampton all the time and never does anything by halves, a statement which I wholeheartedly support. Yet Minister Swarten said that the award should have gone to someone in recognition of their community service rather than someone who, in his words, got paid to do a job. If one were to apply this very same logic of this bitter and twisted Minister—

Mr SCHWARTEN: I rise to a point of order. I congratulated Barbara Harwood on her appointment. I talked about awards generally.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr DAVIDSON:—one would have to question why he has presented various awards to the hardworking staff of his department during his turbulent time as Minister.

I have known Barbara Harwood for some time. When I was Minister for Tourism, she came to Brisbane many times to see me and have meetings with me. Every time I went to Rockhampton, she requested meetings with me. She has been the champion of the tourism industry in Rockhampton for many, many years. She is well regarded and well respected as a tourism representative from Rockhampton. I cannot believe that Mr Swarten, as a Minister of the Government, would criticise Mrs Harwood's—

Time expired.
