



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

Hansard 18 May 2000

ACCESS QUEENSLAND PTY LTD

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (7.06 p.m.): Access Queensland Pty Ltd is a registered company set up specifically to seek out and supply the lucrative London market with the very best of Queensland-grown primary products. The company is made up of 50 shareholders, virtually all of whom are primary producers. Access Queensland was registered under the Corporations Law of Queensland on 27 November 1998 and submitted an Internet domain name registration on 8 April 1999. I table the relevant letters.

The concern I bring to the House today is of fundamental importance, not only to Access Queensland but also to all companies trying to establish their name. A letter was received by Access Queensland from the Department of the Premier, asking if it would be willing to relinquish its present name. I also table that letter. Other correspondence followed between the company and the Department of the Premier. I also table those letters.

In January of this year, Access Queensland advised the Government that it did not wish to negotiate any further in relation to the issue, advising that neither the name nor the web site are for sale and that the company has no intention of granting permission to anyone in relation to either. On 9 February this year a quite astounding response was received, in which the department expressed its disappointment and stated that the State remains willing to participate in further negotiations. The letter states—

"Notwithstanding the above, the State proposes to commence use of the name Access Queensland for its Community Service function and the Government's legal advice is that the government entity will not be in business and, by virtue of the disparity between the functions of the entity and the activities of your business, there can be no suggestion of passing off."

What an arrogant approach from a big Government to small, struggling regional businesses doing their best to earn export dollars for Queensland! I call on the Premier to immediately revoke the Government's intention to hijack the Access Queensland name.

Time expired.
