



Speech by

Mr BRUCE LAMING

MEMBER FOR MOOLOOLAH

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GOVERNMENT SERVICES, SUNSHINE COAST

Mr LAMING (Mooloolah—LP) (7.04 p.m.): I rise to speak in this Adjournment debate because it is perhaps the most appropriate debate in which to bring to the attention of the House the many concerns of those who live in rapidly growing areas such as the Mooloolah electorate on the Sunshine Coast.

Just about every Government service on the Sunshine Coast is stretched, mainly because of the tremendous growth rate that tends to outstrip infrastructure, resources and personnel. Most, but not all, of those concerns are in the areas of policing and main roads. I will take the opportunity to outline some of those tonight in an effort to encourage their consideration during the Government's Budget deliberations.

Firstly, I must yet again bring up the matter of police numbers and resources. Members on both sides of the House will have heard me remonstrate that the north coast region is inexplicably disadvantaged by our generally low police to population ratios compared with the rest of Queensland and the effects of the police staffing allocation model on the north coast region. This situation requires a Budget response and a robust re-adjustment of the input factors of the model.

Also, on the subject of policing, I must ask again that consideration be given to a station at Buderim. I was patient when advised that Beerwah had a higher priority, but now it is Buderim's turn. Police officers are providing a community service by attending the old Buderim post office during the week, which is much appreciated. The Buderim community has recently finished purchasing the old post office and I congratulate all involved in that project. I seek funding in the next Budget for a police station at Buderim.

Similarly, the conditions under which our water police officers have to work is of great concern. I encourage the Minister for Police and the Minister for Transport to work together next financial year to provide a joint facility at Mooloolaba, a harbour which is growing in both commercial and recreational interests each year.

Before leaving policing, I would like to commend local officers for their efforts following the calls by me and others in regard to cracking down on hoon drivers. I thank them. Similarly, let me place on the record my best wishes to Assistant Commissioner John Walker, who is retiring very soon. As I said earlier, next to policing, main roads issues are probably at the top of the list in the minds of many Sunshine Coast residents. It is always difficult to put roadworks into priorities, but let me say that the major arterials—the Sunshine Motorway and the Nicklin Way—are of major concern both to locals and visitors. Governments must not only plan ahead but must anticipate the effects of growth on our main arterials.

The Sunshine Motorway requires urgent upgrading to four lanes from Buderim-Mooloolaba Road through to Maroochydore Road. Traffic counts there are approaching 30,000 vehicles per day and rising steadily. I call on the Minister to bring this work forward into next financial year, 2000-01, rather than it be left floundering in the out years. This also prompts me to draw to the Minister's attention the current interchange at Buderim-Mooloolaba Road. It needs to be reconfigured as a matter of urgency.

I am, of course, aware of current works on the northern end of Nicklin Way, Kawana to expand it to six lanes. This is a necessity as this section has now reached a count of 46,000 vehicles per day. I

am concerned that some existing slip lanes will be lost, and I will watch these intersections with interest. This area has naturally become extremely noisy and I once again request that the Minister put the small amount of funds aside that would provide a fence at the rear of those residential properties that are worst affected.

I have not mentioned the Bruce Highway, a Federal responsibility, but the Minister can rest assured that I will follow that up elsewhere.

I believe I have been fortunate in the schools I have inherited, if that is the correct word, in the electorate of Mooloolah—they are great! I am looking forward to attending the 125th anniversary of the Buderim Primary School later this year—well done! On the other end of the age scale, I have seen the opening of the Mountain Creek Primary School, the Mountain Creek State High School, the Chancellor Primary School and the University of the Sunshine Coast. Dare I ask for another primary school? I am afraid I must, once again due to the tremendous growth. I request the Minister to ask his staff to closely monitor the growth patterns in the Mountain Creek area and ensure that the proposed new school at Glen Fields is commenced in good time.

I have also written to the Attorney-General, requesting that the Sunshine Coast also be considered as soon as possible for a Drugs Court as I anticipate that they will be successful and, unfortunately, necessary on our growing Sunshine Coast. Lastly, as time will not permit more, may I reiterate my call for serious consideration of financial assistance to Maroochy Shire for a proposed arts and convention centre on the Sunshine Coast. I know that there is a lot more work to be done in the planning stages to make sure that we get what is most appropriate, but it is important that funds be put aside for that purpose.
