



Speech by

**SHAUN NELSON**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

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Hansard 29 February 2000

#### **LAND COURT BILL**

**Mr NELSON** (Tablelands—IND) (4.56 p.m.): I also do not intend to rehash all the issues that have been placed before the House today. I will support the Bill because of its intended purpose. One issue that has been raised with me with regard to the Land Court is that of delay. It is not only how long it takes to get a hearing but also the determination of that hearing and the length of time that can pass between those two points. I know that it is not something that is endemic to the Land Court; I know that it is an issue throughout all jurisdictions, whether it be the Magistrates Court or the Supreme Court.

Just recently I was informed about a person who is awaiting trial on a charge of murder who has been on bail for two years. That is totally unacceptable. So I know that delay is not an issue that applies only to the Land Court. I think that the delays that have been reported to me could be easily dealt with by listing more sitting days or longer hearing times or by appointing more members to the court. Again, these are problems to which I do not have the answers. I do not know how much it costs to run the Land Court and so forth, but the issue of delays is something that I would like addressed in the near future. I am looking at private members' legislation with regard to the judiciary.

The point I would like to make in relation to this Bill is that there are unreasonable delays within the judicial system. I have not been able to find that issue addressed anywhere in the Bill, but it must be addressed in the future. With those comments, I support the Bill.

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