



Speech by

**SHAUN NELSON**

**MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS**

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Hansard 14 March 2000

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr NELSON** (Tablelands—IND) (4.12 p.m.): I refer to the aspect of the Bill which relates to implementation of the NCP. I support the stance taken by the Government this morning in attacking the sell-off of Telstra. The Federal member of Parliament in my region will suffer incredibly badly from the fact that he voted for the sale of the second tranche of Telstra while he goes around trying to tell people that he did not. He quite rightly wants them to believe that he had nothing to do with it, although his vote is recorded in relation to the sale of the first tranche of Telstra.

**Mr Mackenroth:** The way the Liberals and Nationals used to do it is they would talk against it and then vote for it. Depending on what you wanted to know, they would give you either a copy of the vote or a copy of the speech.

**Mr NELSON:** With the implementation of NCP, and especially with the sale of Telstra, that is something that is being heard loud and clear in my electorate. I can tell honourable members that Bob Katter will certainly know that at the next election. I am certainly putting the record of his vote out in the public arena in my area to let him know that I am not going to sit back quietly and let that happen.

The Government quite rightly this morning deplored the fact that Telstra is being sold off and jobs will be lost. I say that whenever we try to implement NCP jobs will be lost. It is a failed policy. We had this argument in the Chamber on another occasion. We have to start looking for something else. This policy does not work. If 10,000 jobs being lost out of Telstra is not a warning, then what is?

I support the QCCI in its campaign. I certainly endorse the comments made by the member for Gladstone. I am not an expert on the subject, but I went through the letter and some of the situations certainly seem quite unfair.

My question to the Minister is: how will this Bill affect the Mareeba, Herberton, Eacham and Atherton Shires, the four shires in my electorate? Are there any flow-on ramifications? I looked through the Explanatory Notes and the Minister's speech. I want to make sure there are no flow-on effects from the Bill that they may need to look at in the future.

**Mr Mackenroth** interjected.

**Mr NELSON:** Good. I foreshadow a problem that I will be bringing to the attention of the Minister in the near future. It relates to the sewage treatment works in Atherton. I recognise that this Bill relates to water and sewerage maintenance. There is a massive problem with the Atherton sewage treatment works because its output flows into Tinaroo Dam, which is the major water supply for the Mareeba-Dimbulah irrigation area. I have had numerous reports of, and I myself have found, untreated sewage flowing around the dam. I have seen it with my own eyes and other people have reported it to me. That is going down Mazlin Creek from the Atherton sewage treatment works.

The reason I raise this issue in the Chamber today is that the current local government is being very circumspect in allowing people to question this issue. For example, I know that one mayoral candidate with an engineering background has tried to gain access and has been denied and stonewalled. He now has access. He is going to report back to me on what he thinks of the sewage treatment works. I foreshadow that I will be addressing this issue in detail to the Minister.