



Speech by

Hon. T. McGRADY

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

Hansard 17 May 2000

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Energex Safety Campaign

Hon. T. McGRADY (Mount Isa—ALP) (Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development) (10.16 a.m.), by leave: I recently launched a new safety campaign by Energex, which I believe members should be informed about. The campaign is an attempt to highlight a major electrical safety issue and it directly challenges the old "do-it-yourself" attitude, which many of us believe in and indeed indulge in. The campaign is being embarked on because 46 Queenslanders have died in the past 10 years as a direct result of do-it-yourself electrical work. This unauthorised work is being done by home handy people—or, more correctly, home handymen, because that is the case in the majority of instances.

The advertising campaign has initially kicked off with television advertising but it will also feature in the press, on radio and in brochures to go out directly to electricity consumers. It is a hard-hitting campaign and, in fact, the TV ads had to go into the evening slots because of the nature of their message. Some members may have seen the ad where people are floating up through heaven and ending up in a coffin.

We are trying to change the behaviour of people who think they can save a few dollars or a bit of time by doing their own electrical work. The true price of doing this work should not be measured in dollars. The price could be the death of loved ones, as has happened 46 times in the past 10 years. So we are issuing a wake-up call to those people who are risking their own lives and the lives of their friends and their loved ones. The message that we are giving to home handy people is very, very simple: if it is anything to do with electricity, do not do it yourself, because you could kill somebody. I am also pleased to inform members that the Bunnings hardware—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr McGRADY: We are talking about 46 Queenslanders who in the past 10 years have been killed. Obviously, the members opposite do not care.

The electrical safety information sessions will be delivered as part of Bunnings Warehouse handymen workshops over coming weeks. The Energex brochure will be part of these safety sessions and safety messages will be delivered so that people more fully understand the very real dangers of trying to do unauthorised electrical work. I commend Bunnings for their participation. The Government will place a real focus on electrical safety in the coming months, and I will report to the House on various initiatives as they occur.
