



Speech by

## **Hon. V. LESTER**

### **MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

---

Hansard 17 October 2000

#### **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE**

**Mr V. J. N. Cooper; Mr H. Williams**

**Hon. V. P. LESTER** (Keppel—NPA) (9.42 a.m.): I read the speeches of Vivian Cooper and I think that they could almost be a description of what goes on in Keppel today. Let me remind honourable members of just a few of his comments and see whether anybody can recall me saying anything similar. He talked about tourism being increased by 22% on the previous year. Then he said—

"... I should like to suggest that money be set aside as soon as possible to extend the scenic road from its existing terminal at Emu Park along the coast through Zilzie to Cooraman Creek, as a step towards its extension to Keppel Sands, and ultimately to complete the round trip from Rockhampton via Yeppoon, Emu Park, Keppel Sands, returning to Rockhampton via Tungamul. The extension of this link to Cooraman Creek would complete one of the finest marine drives in Australia, and would not only provide a great holiday resort for tourists, but be a great sporting and fishing ground for residents of Rockhampton and Central-western towns. It would also provide access to what is naturally a safe anchorage for fishing boats and greatly help the fast developing industry of hiring boats to day parties."

I can recall saying very similar things— updated, of course. In the same speech that he made on 7 November 1952 he talked about wash facilities on the Emu Park-Rockhampton road. He commented that very few of those facilities actually existed for ladies. It reminds me a bit of the issue of the outward-swinging toilet door.

I think that Vivian Cooper was a most remarkable man. He had a lot of vision and was a person who fought very, very hard for Keppel. Today that road is called the scenic route. If we think back, we realise that it was this fellow who really got it going and who encouraged people not to go directly from Rockhampton to Mackay but to go via the coast. Our tourist promoters today are saying exactly the same thing. We have been given excellent service by this wonderful former member of Parliament. It is sad that he has passed on.

In relation to Harry Williams, I just want to say that at one time I was Minister for Industrial Relations when he was an ABC reporter. He always gave a very fair interpretation of what was said. What we said was what Harry Williams reported. I do not think I ever had one difference of opinion with him in relation to his reporting. He was a very in-depth reporter who got to the bottom of the story and then reported it as it was. I say to his wife and family: bear up for the future. It is sad, but, unfortunately, that is life.

---