



Speech by

JOHN KINGSTON

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Hansard 30 May 2001

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Dr KINGSTON (Maryborough—Ind) (9.33 p.m.): Unlike the previous speaker, I commiserate with the minister. I feel some sympathy for his position in that there are so many demands which he has to try to satisfy. I would like to raise two issues that relate to my electorate. The first concerns a road which runs across forestry country. It is used by school buses, cane trucks and logging trucks, but nobody owns the road and nobody maintains the road. There have been some very close calls with school buses and cane trucks. Cane trucks have had to back 200 metres down a hill. In the event of an accident who is liable?

The other issue I would like to raise concerns boat ramps on the Burrum River. The main boat ramp on the Burrum River is dangerous because the current bounces from one bank to the other. The current from the northern bank to the southern bank is very swift and dangerous, and several old people have been hurt there. The local residents and the local council are trying to rectify this problem. However, they find that the EPA says that they cannot do this; the fisheries department says that they cannot do this; and the Transport Department says that they cannot do this. Minister, this is a very serious issue of concern to the people of that district.

A Government member: You're speaking through the chair, aren't you?

Dr KINGSTON: Yes, I am.

Mr Bredhauer: I'm listening. You're talking about the boat ramp on the Burrum River and how the current bounces around.

Dr KINGSTON: Yes. And I am also saying that, because of the rulings of three separate government departments, that community is unable to take any functional action. There needs to be an overriding authority which can make something happen. The river is silting up; it needs dredging. At the moment, whichever way they turn they are told by fisheries that they cannot fortify the banks and they are told by the EPA that they cannot do other things. They are stuck. Three old people have already been hurt because of the current. Someone is going to be seriously hurt, and I wonder who will bear the responsibility for that.
