



Speech by

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**STATE MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Hansard 12 December 2001

**INTEGRATED PLANNING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr MICKEL** (Logan—ALP) (2.53 p.m.): I want to speak in relation to one specific provision of this bill, and that is electricity companies and their impact on the living standards of people in new and developing residential areas. It is a very contentious issue in a developing electorate such as Logan, where some years ago—1986-87—the Bjelke-Petersen government purchased land for an electricity corridor in my electorate. That was done correctly but some years after the housing estate was developed in and around the corridor. In the late 1990s, Energex—or Powerlink as it then was—indicated that it wanted to take up the option to develop the electricity line along that corridor. To the angst of most people, the first they realised that they were living beside an electricity corridor was when the announcement was made in the paper.

That incident brings into question the issue of making sure that, in future, any state government instrumentality seeking to provide corridors, either through expansion of roadways or the provision of electricity corridors, does so in a way that is quite transparent. I think it is fair to say that in the past there has been an unhealthy relationship in some of these areas between the developers and some solicitors to the point at which they have not disclosed their relationship and so unsuspecting buyers are unaware that what they assume to be an environmental park is actually an electricity corridor. That has been the angst experienced by people, particularly those living in the Munruben Forest area in my electorate.

So I would be very pleased if the minister can give some assurance that, whilst we cannot address that problem for those people, in the future in fast-developing areas such as the north Beaudesert shire and some of the areas in my electorate within Logan city around Heritage Park and Park Ridge, people can be reassured that they can go to a place within the council and see all the requirements that are being made upon that land by state government instrumentalities. The greatest investment that many people in my electorate make is the purchase and attempted ownership of their first home. It creates a degree of anguish for them when they discover that there are going to be electricity wires beside their homes, or that the roadway system is going to be widened.

It may well be that wealthier buyers could have engaged very good solicitors. In some instances, the solicitors may not have told the buyers everything that is capable of being searched for. As I said, it is an area of great contention in developing areas. I am looking for the minister to give some undertaking about the transparency of that process. I might also say that, in those days, smaller councils, as the then Beaudesert council was, would have been under great pressure, because of the growth in approved housing estates, to gain the rates from those developments.

Today we are left with the problem of trying to provide a safer entry and exit system for many of those people in housing estates. One of most disgraceful and dangerous intersections in my electorate concerns the Granger Road-Mount Lindesay Highway intersection, which is now going to be widened. That has not come about without some pain to the people in the adjoining areas. I am very pleased to see that the Minister for Transport, Steve Bredhauer, has allocated money in this budget and also in the next budget to provide an interchange to improve the amenity for people entering and leaving that estate. I also must draw to the attention of the House the situation for people in Munruben Forest. Carter Road is the only entry and exit point for those people and a service road is going to be needed.

Sometimes smaller shires, particularly those undergoing rapid development, in their haste to get the rate dollar in, allowed housing estates to develop without giving due attention to the state government instrumentalities and state government requirements that may have been needed to make

the entries and exits from those estates safer for those people. I would like to draw to the minister's attention particularly the plight of the people in the north Beaudesert area and also some of the measures that are being taken by the state government to fix the problem.

I know that, in the Munruben Forest area, it is too late for those people with the electricity corridor. We will do everything that we can to ameliorate that. But again, I appeal to the minister to give some assurance that in the future that plight can be ameliorated.

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