



Speech by

Hon. KEN HAYWARD

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard 2 May 2001

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Hon. K. W. HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (6.19 p.m.): It is a pleasure to second the amendment that has been moved by the minister tonight. This is an important amendment because it will test what is left of the National and Liberal parties. The second part of that amendment states—

Condemns Federal Government attempts to interfere in, and ride roughshod over, Queensland's management of its natural resources, including vegetation.

Time and time again during the last parliament, members of the Liberal and National parties defended the actions of the federal coalition. They defended the federal government continuously. Tonight they have another opportunity to defend the federal government by opposing the amendment moved by the minister. This is their chance to stand up and say to the federal government, 'Support Queensland and stop doing what you are doing. Send the \$103 million up to the state so that we can keep moving with the Vegetation Management Bill 2000.' They have the chance to do that tonight, and the question is whether or not they will take it. Will the remains of the Liberal and National parties have the sense to support this amendment?

What the Queensland people did at the last state election is obvious to everyone. They recognised that the coalition parties continued at all times to support the federal coalition. Their numbers in the parliament have been decimated because they defended the federal government when it simply could not be defended. On a number of occasions I said to them, 'While you continue to do that, you demonstrate your lack of support for the state of Queensland.' I suspect that they are threatening to do the same again tonight. The electors of Queensland know—and it has been clearly demonstrated by opposition members' actions in this parliament—that they simply do not support policies that will benefit Queensland. Instead, they continue to support the federal government.

This amendment provides members opposite with the chance to stand up to the federal coalition government and show that they are committed to this state. Every time they have had a chance to support the state of Queensland in this parliament they have supported the federal coalition instead. They certainly did that with the GST. The business activity statement turned out to be a farce, yet members opposite supported it even when it was obvious to the electors of Queensland that it was a joke. Liberal and National Party members demonstrated a complete lack of support for a regional forestry agreement that was negotiated by all of the players in this state because the Commonwealth did not support it either. It came in miles after the agreement was completed. What did the then members of the Liberal and National parties do? They jumped straight in and supported the federal coalition government to the detriment of all Queenslanders, and now we can see the results of that action.

Tonight, Liberal and National Party members have a chance to support this amendment and to finally demonstrate to this parliament and, more importantly, to the people of Queensland that they will stand up to the federal coalition and say, 'Enough is enough. The \$103 million should come to this state.' They have a chance to support the people of Queensland in their struggle against the federal coalition.

If we look to the last state election we see that the National and Liberal parties lost votes simply because they did not represent Queenslanders. When given the chance to do that on a number of issues, they elected to support the federal coalition. They were determined to take some kind of position against the people of Queensland—indeed, they took a mad political position—simply because

a Labor government held office in the state of Queensland. Tonight they have the chance to support this important amendment.

Time expired.
