



Speech by

**KERRY SHINE**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Hansard 7 August 2001

**BRIDGE STREET QUARRY INTERNATIONAL GARDENS**

**Mr SHINE** (Toowoomba North—ALP) (10.27 a.m.): It is with pleasure that I inform the House of a proposed project being considered in Toowoomba by the Toowoomba City Council in the hope of gaining government support in the future. The project is the Bridge Street Quarry International Gardens project, which is to be situated at the eastern end of Bridge Street on the Toowoomba Range. During the recent community cabinet meeting I had the pleasure of taking the Premier to that quarry site in the pre-dawn hours to show him what the mayor and councillors have in mind for that area of Toowoomba. I am pleased to inform the House that the Premier was suitably impressed.

I will give the House some facts associated with this project. Opportunities on the site include the dramatic land form, views over the Lockyer Valley, the history of the quarry development, geological features and the potential to grow a wide range of plant communities.

Research of the botanical garden industry in Australia shows a very positive outlook, with a predicted growth rate of 3.5 per cent per annum. In Australia, visitors to botanical gardens comprise 15 per cent international tourists. In 1999 approximately 5.4 million people visited a botanical garden. With respect to the Darling Downs, 1.5 million people were overnight domestic visitors. It can be gathered from those statistics that there is a market for such a project. Obviously for the type of project in mind, which will eventually rival the Butchart Gardens in Vancouver in Canada, a large amount of government funding is necessary. Botanical gardens are dependent on government funding for their operation—

Time expired.

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