



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Hansard 13 September 2001

TERRORISM, UNITED STATES; CHOGM

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.21 a.m.): Yesterday we saw that tragic event and I think we are still reeling a little bit from its effects. Our continued sympathies go to the people and families associated with that tragedy.

We do have to move on with the necessary business of our state. The issue of CHOGM has been addressed this morning by the Premier. I think it is something that is on many people's minds in view of what has happened. There is no point in saying otherwise. We have taken a responsibility as the state of Queensland to hold the event. The final decision will be made by our federal government, and the indication from the Prime Minister has been that CHOGM will go ahead.

Yesterday we all spoke about the necessity to not be bowed down by acts of terrorism and to ensure that we work towards peace and democracy. I would sincerely hope that CHOGM would be able to advance those sorts of principles during the discussions on the agenda item. It is the responsibility of us in this parliament to ensure that the public of Brisbane and Queensland are fully protected. I have said in the past in public that I have confidence in the professionalism of the Queensland Police Service, which is the lead agency with regard to security for CHOGM, and I have had a confidential briefing in that regard.

I think it is important that all of the services involved in supporting CHOGM are fully supported with the provision of the finances and resources that they need, that we do take particular heed of any necessary reviews that are undertaken as a result of this week's events and that the public continue to be informed of what has come out of those particular reviews. I am also pleased that the government has taken up the recommendation that was put forward by the opposition about the special regulations covering designated areas and that that has been undertaken.
