



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

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PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.18 a.m.): One of the greatest threats at present to the social fabric of our society is the escalating costs of public liability insurance for festivals and for many community organisations. Daily we hear stories of huge increases in the cost of this insurance, which is virtually putting such cover out of the reach of community organisations—increases in the area of 100 per cent, even up to something like 500 per cent.

Festivals and community functions are very important to each and every area. In my own area the Carnival of Flowers, which has been running for some 52 years, is important to the social and community fabric of our town. Events like the Herberton Tin Festival, the Gympie Gold Festival and the Goodna Jacaranda Festival are very important to those areas, as are many other festivals in each area of our state. Unless we do something positive about putting in place a system that is practical and financially sound with a reasonable and capped level of insurance, then many of those organisations will not be able to proceed. We have already seen some cancellations.

The National Party has put forward a positive proposal that a scheme similar to that involving motor insurance should be put in place, underwritten by the government. That would bring together the strengths of the various organisations so that we are able to negotiate some reasonable and capped level of public liability insurance. I am pleased to say that our proposal has received support from the Queensland Council of Social Services. From a survey that it undertook, it reports similar problems, particularly in many community organisations that deal with crisis accommodation services and the like.

We are seeing an ongoing trend of massive increases in public liability cost. The National Party's proposal is a good one—

Time expired.
