



Speech by
**Hon. NITA
CUNNINGHAM**

MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Hansard 31 October 2001

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gold Coast City Council IPA Plan

Hon. J. I. CUNNINGHAM (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Planning) (10.02 a.m.), by leave: As members would be aware, many Queensland councils are now well advanced in the process of preparing new planning schemes that are compliant with the Integrated Planning Act. Part of the process involves my signing off on the plan, subject to any conditions addressing matters of state interest, before the relevant council can publicly exhibit the plan and allow its residents the chance to provide input.

Recently, I signed off on the Gold Coast City Council's IPA plan, subject to some 170 conditions. It was to be expected that a plan of the size and complexity of the Gold Coast's would require a number of final changes to address matters of state interest. My approval was subject to a number of changes being made to the plan before it was released for public consultation. Yesterday, it was brought to my attention that the plan had been released before a large number of those changes had been made by the council. It is extremely unfortunate that the council allowed this to occur. But leaving the plan on public display without the conditions having been met would lead to confusion and uncertainty as to the legal status of the plan. Under the circumstances, I believe there is no alternative but to direct the council to withdraw the plan from public display and to make the necessary changes.

I have written to the council this morning, directing that the plan be withdrawn. I have also asked the council to undertake a rigorous review to ensure that the plan fully complies with the conditions of my approval before the plan is made available for public consultation again. It is regrettable that the Gold Coast city plan's progress has been delayed, but I cannot allow the process to proceed when the result could ultimately mean additional cost and confusion for ratepayers and possible legal challenges to the validity of the plan. Once the council has made the necessary changes, the notification period can begin over again, allowing the Gold Coast ratepayers a chance to have their say. My department will work closely with the Gold Coast City Council to ensure that the conditions are met and that the plan is put back on public display as quickly as possible.
