



Speech by

Mr P. PURCELL

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

Hansard 29 May 2001

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT [BURNETT BASIN] BILL

Mr PURCELL (Bulimba—ALP) (4.12 p.m.): I congratulate the Minister for State Development, Tom Barton, on bringing this bill before the House. The purpose of the bill is to allow for a quick but thorough investigation of the feasibility of water infrastructure in the Burnett area. It will do a number of things. The government's intention is that the development rights for water infrastructure will be awarded through a competitive process, and this action is being taken with that in mind. I do not think the government uses legislation like this enough. The State Development portfolio is designed to enable the government to assist in putting infrastructure in place. Jobs will follow, business will follow and industry will follow. This legislation aims to shorten the process for applying for access to land so that they can get on with the job and see where the dam will be. It will enable them to talk to landholders, keep them in the loop, make sure that they are informed about what is going on, and it will drive jobs in the Burnett area.

Queensland probably undertakes development in regional areas better than any other state. Because in comparison with other states our population in country areas is higher than it is on the coast, we must continue to do this, and continue to do it on a large scale. The minister is on the right track, and he should continue to bring legislation like this before the House. The opposition is in favour of it, which proves that we must be doing the right thing. We just want to get on with it.
