



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 6 December 2001

NAMBOUR POLICE VEHICLE HOLDING YARD; NICKLIN ELECTORATE

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (7.05 p.m.): I rise to thank the Minister for Police, the Hon. Tony McGrady, for his assistance in the removal of one of Nambour's old eyesores, the Nambour police vehicle holding yard. Over the years, we have seen a whole range of types of motor vehicles in varying stages of damage stored at the holding yard for varying periods. The sight of the burnt-out motor vehicle shells and the extensively damaged motor vehicles involved in fatal traffic accidents will, thanks to Minister McGrady, no longer be stored inside a six-foot chain wire secure holding yard in the heart of the town of Nambour.

The relocation of the site of the vehicle holding yard from the heart of Nambour to out of town on the Bli Bli road will be welcomed with a great deal of enthusiasm by the residents and visitors to Nambour. Over recent years, the Maroochy Shire Council and property owners in Nambour have spent a considerable amount of time, effort and money in beautifying Nambour's central business district. As a result of Minister McGrady's intervention in this matter on my request, we will now see the Queensland Police Service playing its part in trying to clean up our town of Nambour with the relocation of these facilities. Whilst on the issue of Nambour, I also use this opportunity to thank the police minister for allowing the Nambour police beat to keep operating in the Nambour central business district over the Christmas period. Notwithstanding this, I use this opportunity to urge the minister to allow the police beat patrol to become a permanent policing feature of the police duties in Nambour, because of its overwhelming success.

I understand that most of the police officers based in Nambour have done their time on the beat, but a few stand out from the crowd. Sergeant Nev Horneman was one of the first police beat officers, along with Amanda Russell. Nev is currently acting senior sergeant in charge of the Nambour Police Station and doing a great job. Constable Carl Christensen has become a popular figure around town. Carl has been on the beat for some time. He also does a regular segment for the Nambour and District News, in which he highlights the beat and related issues of interest. School safety and bullying were covered in his last column, which pointed out to children that 'Nothing is so awful that it can't be talked about'.

On the topic of the local children, I acknowledge the many young children from the Nicklin electorate who continue to generously offer their prayers and support to me and my family and ask how my injury is progressing. In this regard, I thank everyone for their ongoing support and can say that it feels great to have the plaster now off my left leg, although I still have a metal frame attached to my right leg. To teacher Jo Pickles and her year 3J class at St Joseph's College, Nambour, I say: thank you for your prayers and art work. Unfortunately, I will not be able to be with you next week because I will again be in parliament. Notwithstanding this, I will be thinking of you.

Another group of young supporters that I would like to acknowledge tonight is the students of the Bli Bli State School, whose Christmas event will be staged on Saturday, at which time I will be in Adelaide at a family wedding. Bli Bli School has seen some major milestones this year with the celebration of its centenary and the launch of the centenary book. Recently, I was fortunate enough to be invited to help students sink their time capsule. It is disappointing that Jenny and I will be unable to attend this event, which will start with the opening of the fair at midday Saturday, followed by the traditional carols by candlelight and fireworks display at 9 p.m. The students have been working tirelessly on their stalls and entertainment items. I wish them every success and a happy Christmas.