



Speech by

RONAN LEE

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

Hansard 16 May 2001

DOG BAITING

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (7.21 p.m.): I wish to bring to the attention of the House a very serious matter that has arisen in my electorate. Four weeks ago I received a letter from a resident of Chelmer informing me that her neighbourhood had been the target of a serial dog baiter. The culprits have been trespassing into people's yards at a night-time and depositing food that has been dipped in poison. When the dogs have eaten the food, they have subsequently died a slow and extremely inhumane death.

On Saturday I held a public meeting for my community with representatives from the police and the RSPCA. What became apparent was that residents in this particular area have been living their lives in fear. Not only are many reluctant to let their dogs run in their own yards unsupervised, but they fear for the safety of their young children. We hope that this situation will soon end as the police are working hard to catch the culprit. The sick person or people who are committing these crimes are not only putting the lives of dogs at risk; if a child were to eat the meat dipped in poison, he or she would certainly have met the same fate as the six dogs who have already died.

What is most upsetting about this entire situation is the fact that, if the matter had been dealt with when it was first raised with the elected representatives in my area two years ago, there might now be six dogs alive and dozens of residents would not be living in fear that their pets are going to be next. The then Liberal councillor who was contacted at the time said it was an issue for the state member. The state member asked the local residents to—and I quote from the correspondence—'carefully monitor the situation'. Since then six dogs have died. They have been carefully monitoring that! Wouldn't you know it but when the residents felt that it was time to contact the federal MP, his response was, 'If only you had a neighbourhood watch to keep a lookout for you.' I have to mention that not a single member of the Liberal Party is in the chamber right now. I really believe that the residents in my area do not feel particularly confident that they would get any better representation in the future.

I am determined to resolve this situation and I am determined to make the person responsible pay. I want to make sure that they receive the treatment that they most definitely need. I am also absolutely determined to make sure that my community never ever again suffers from this sort of neglect from its elected representatives. Because of this, many of the residents in this area do not let their children play in their yard without checking it out first in case poisoned foods have been thrown over their fence. Also, a number of residents are not taking their dogs for walks or to the leash-free areas for fear that the dog baiter or dog baiters have left more poisoned food around.

Time expired.
