



Speech by

**ANDREW McNAMARA**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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Hansard 11 April 2002

**UNEMPLOYMENT, HERVEY BAY**

**Mr McNAMARA** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (10.26 a.m.): I am delighted to inform the House of the latest of the very substantial number of grants recently announced by the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth, Matt Foley, to address unemployment in Hervey Bay. I am particularly pleased that the minister has supported the Hervey Bay City Council's Links Mobility Corridor Project by granting \$171,610 for the employment of 15 unemployed people for 20 weeks. These local people will help transform Hervey Bay into a national leader for wheelchair access. On Monday I visited the worksite between Denman Camp Road and Tavistock Street at Torquay where the project workers are transforming the disused rail corridor into a magnificently landscaped corridor of pathways and recreational areas.

The Links Mobility Corridor Project, which has my very strong support, will eventually link major buildings and shopping centres in Torquay, Urangan, Scarness, Pialba and Urraween. The development will provide a green, safe environment for locals and visitors and will allow people on foot, on pushbikes, in wheelchairs and on scooters to move across Hervey Bay without having to compete with cars. This project is a winner on so many levels. It provides job skills and work experience for 15 local unemployed people.

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting those workers, and I can tell the House that they are full of well-justified pride in their great work. This project also improves Hervey Bay's desirability as a tourist destination, which is good for all of Hervey Bay's businesses. Access tourism is a largely untapped market and Hervey Bay can lead Australia in this regard. Most importantly, it improves the facilities and living standards for everyone living in Hervey Bay, particularly the elderly, the disabled and school students on push bikes.

Finally, I note that over the past six weeks the Beattie government has announced employment generating grants for Hervey Bay totalling in excess of \$830,000. It is no surprise then that business optimism is up and Hervey Bay has the smell of success about it again. The Minister for Employment has been giving his very personal attention to Hervey Bay's needs, and the city of Harvey Bay is responding appropriately. Young people are getting jobs, tourism facilities are being improved—

Time expired.

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