



Speech by

CHRISTINE SCOTT

MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

Hansard 6 August 2002

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT (Charters Towers—ALP) (5.05 p.m.): I welcome this historic and groundbreaking sitting of parliament in north Queensland. This is a great example of the Beattie Labor government once again taking government to the people. For 33 years the National Party governed Queensland, the party who says it is the party of the bush. Where did it run it from? From the south-east corner, and it made no move to change that. Who instigated community cabinets in Queensland to take government to all parts of Queensland? Premier Peter Beattie and the Beattie Labor government. In fact, we have had two community cabinets in my electorate. What other government has ever instigated an event where anyone can walk in and talk to any minister on any subject on the day? Only the Beattie Labor government—the true party of the bush, the true party of the people.

How different it will be for people in my electorate from places like Charters Towers, Mingela, Ravenswood, Greenvale, Prairie, Balfes Creek, Homestead, Pentland, Hughenden, Richmond and Maxwellton. They will be able to drive, some of them for less than an hour—less time than it takes some members here to drive to the casino—to see how parliament actually operates. I find it surprising that the National Party, which calls itself the party of the bush, would criticise us taking parliament to the people of north Queensland. This sitting in north Queensland will allow men, women and children from—

Mr HORAN: I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that comment and ask for it to be withdrawn. We have supported this bill and not criticised this bill in the parliament. She can be untruthful if she likes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Fouras): Order! The member will resume his seat. There is no point of order. No member sitting in this chamber has mentioned that and therefore the member has no right to take a point of order. I call the member for Charters Towers.

Mr HORAN: So she can tell lies in this parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba South, I take that as being a reflection on the chair. I know it was not meant that way, so I will leave it at that. The member will resume his seat. I call the member for Charters Towers.

Mr HORAN: I took offence, because we have all supported this bill and supported the concept. To hear that member say the opposite and tell untruths in the parliament really brings this parliament down. I just make that point.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Horan has abused the standing orders. I would ask the member to resume his seat because there is no point of order. I am not going to repeat that again. I will warn him the next time he gets up. I call the member for Charters Towers.

Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT: This will allow men, women and children from the three R areas of Queensland—that is, regional, rural and remote—who have never had the opportunity to have those same opportunities people in south-east Queensland take for granted. I cannot imagine how anyone could criticise this. In fact, I welcome this move and commend this bill to the House.