



Speech by

DON LIVINGSTONE

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

Hansard 14 May 2002

COMMUNITY RENEWAL PROGRAM

Mr LIVINGSTONE (Ipswich West—ALP) (7.04 p.m.): I advise the House of the significant investment the state government has provided through the Community Renewal Program in Leichhardt and surrounding suburbs. More than \$10.4 million has been allocated for around 36 projects since community renewal first started in Leichhardt in 1998. Around \$7.1 million has also been spent under the Beattie government to upgrade 218 Department of Housing dwellings in the area. These urban renewal initiatives have improved the quality of life for literally hundreds of Leichhardt and Wulkuraka families. The Department of Housing funds and coordinates the Community Renewal Program and delivers projects in partnership with the Leichhardt community, Ipswich City Council and other state government agencies.

Now that Leichhardt and Wulkuraka have entered their final year of program funding, we can start to see that the state government's investment has paid off. Locals say that property crime has significantly decreased and residents say that they are very happy with the new streetscapes and other physical improvements. The level of pride displayed by the Leichhardt and Wulkuraka communities has also increased, with many residents becoming involved in the entry for the Australia Day Council's Community of the Year Award. A Leichhardt resident also received the highest accolade in the 2001 Department of Housing's Garden Awards. I am confident the projects funded to date and those over the next 12 months will have a lasting impact on the Leichhardt community today and well into the future. The Leichhardt Community Consultative Committee has played an active role in ensuring people have their say in plans for the future. It is also to be commended for its work. The funded projects would not be the success they are today without the tireless dedication of its members. The committee is now working towards developing a transition plan which will find ways of sustaining the improvements that have been made in Leichhardt so that future generations will also benefit from a safer community.

Some of the major projects funded over the past three years include \$834,000 for the construction of the Leichhardt Community Centre, \$70,000 for the employment of a family support worker to develop programs and workshops for local families, and \$14,780 to implement the under fives literacy project. Community renewal has made a significant improvement to the quality of life of Leichhardt residents, as I am sure it has in many other communities across the state where work has taken place. I commend the program and the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing and congratulate everybody involved.