



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ROBINA CENTRAL PLANNING AGREEMENT] AMENDMENT BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (4.07 p.m.): I rise to speak on the Local Government (Robina Central Planning Agreement) Amendment Bill 2003. I am sure that all members would be aware that Robina, like Kawana on the Sunshine Coast, is a master planned community comprising business and employment centres with retailing, entertainment, recreation, residential and community facilities.

I commend and thank the minister and her department for working towards achieving a more accountable and open system of local government that we all realise comes under state government legislation. It would be remiss of me if I did not put on the public record my community's sincere gratitude for the minister's valuable assistance in quickly addressing an oversight recently made by the Caloundra City Council that had the potential to negatively impact on future job creation opportunities within our community.

Earlier this year Caloundra City Council advised of a failure on council's behalf to properly advertise requirements in respect of the Kawana Waters Business Village. I acknowledge that council has also sought to rectify the resultant position. The department's help in rectifying this council mistake, in consultation with the council, was needed. I thank the minister. I am very pleased with the positive outcome that is to be delivered not only for the residents of Caloundra and Kawana but also for the Sunshine Coast. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech, which outlines the positives that come with a master planned community such as Robina and Kawana, incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Kawana is the hub of vibrant community, a community that I am extremely proud to represent.

Prior to being elected to Queensland State Parliament I was heavily involved in the Kawana Waters Development Control Plan as a Caloundra City Councillor. The Kawana Waters DCP should ensure that when the developer finishes in the area we have a master planned community that we know we should be pleased with due to good forward planning.

Local job growth

Kawana is continuing to develop as a community for all lifestyles with a central commercial hub designed to support both small and large business ventures, creating jobs. This thriving commercial community continues to grow further encouraging new and long term job creation and a positive environment in which to do business.

It is expected that Kawana will offer enormous opportunities for employment in the associated industries of Health, Hospitality, Tourism, Governance and Administration.

Existing and planned infrastructure along with a growing community ensures continued job creation and business development in this region. A Business Commercial Centre is proposed for Kawana utilising Information Technology (IT) and "Smart Business", with integrated Education, Training and Employment opportunities.

Kawana waters master planned community.

The Kawana Waters Development Control Plan integrates the new and existing communities in Kawana and covers an area of over 2300 hectares between the Mooloolah River and the Pacific Ocean. Approximately 40% of the project will be open space for recreation and conservation.

Along with 160 hectares of water ways including a 2000 metre rowing and canoe course, ocean access channel and a range of smaller lakes, waterways and creeks that will compliment the Kawana Waters lifestyle.

A town centre will be built in addition to the existing Kawana Waters shopping centre featuring shops, offices, restaurants, community facilities, residential housing and plazas.

The 2000 metre rowing and canoe course that is well under construction will neighbour the existing sports complex which is planned for upgrades and expansion.

East Bank

Recently I met with Mayor Don Alders, Deputy Mayor Cr Don Smith, relevant staff from Council and developers of the Lensworth Kawana Waters area to discuss how future infrastructure in and around the new Kawana Rowing/Canoeing course, will be best delivered. This will be a major regional facility with a very people friendly and beautiful area to be developed it will be known as East Bank.

I have been assured that the Caloundra Chorale will be a major part of the East Bank community facilities. They need a new home and I know that East Bank is the ideal location for them.

Caloundra Chorale is a non-profit organisation that puts back into entertainment. It is a great community service and the Chorale members are a vibrant part of our society.

I was very proud to initiate talks between the developers many years ago, various State government organisations including Education Queensland, Main Roads and Transport, State Development and others to ensure things like parking and other great community facilities around East Bank will be delivered with the best outcome, for all residents to share.

Car parking in and around East Bank must be well thought through and planned. There will be some car parking be on the Education Department's land and Kawana Waters State High School and the Bokarina Primary School where students and teachers and staff will obviously be using the car park during school hours and the community outside those hours. These carparks are all but completed. East Bank and the Kawana Rowing/Canoeing Course will be a great community and sporting asset for all.

The Bokarina School Hall will hopefully also be a shared community facility between the school and the rest of our local community. I trust that Caloundra City Council keeps to its funding commitments for this project that seems to have been delayed over the past two years.

The present Kawana Hall in Nanyima Street, Buddina is very well used and again, during my days in Council, I was very proud to be able to achieve some major improvements to that facility. It is always very well utilised by residents in and around our area. With our community continuing to grow Governments at all levels must ensure proper facilities for our residents.

Our environment

The Caloundra Council is also working well with the State Government in achieving higher standards of effluent control coming from the Kawana Waters Sewage Treatment Plant. While the fight was fought (and lost) well over a decade ago where the vast majority of us did not want to see a treatment plant that pumps millions of litres of treated effluent into the ocean, I still hope that the State Government working with the Council, will utilise the effluent pipeline that was build between Kawana and Landsborough by Caloundra Councils commercial water and sewerage provider, Calacqua.

At present, Landsborough Sewage treatment Plant pumps treated effluent to Kawana and out through Kawana Ocean outfall.

I believe that the piping of effluent through this pipeline may one day be reversed and hopefully the treated effluent from both Kawana and Landsborough will be able to be utilised hopefully, if and when the Caloundra South (or Caloundra Downs 2) project goes ahead.

Various Government agencies are working with the land holders on the Future use of what are now presently exotic pine forests to the south of Caloundra. If Caloundra South (or Caloundra Downs 2) is in the future developed for job creation and possibly community and residential activities I would hope that all levels of Government work to attract clean green industries, creating real jobs in areas which may utilise this quality treated effluent. In my opinion millions of litres of treated effluent should be used in a positive way, not simply pumped into the Ocean off Kawana.

Treated sewage—not for drinking

Many residents will remember the proposed experiment to put this treated effluent (wastewater) into the Ewen Maddock Dam was halted by a notified motion from Councillor (now Deputy Mayor) Don Smith and myself. It ensured subsequent decisions to ensure that no treated effluent would be used directly or indirectly for drinking water (or for potable uses).

More than \$70 million for major road projects

Consistent with the Beattie Government's efforts to assist construction and the major projects Main Roads is continually contributing to regional gains. This is evidenced at the Sunshine Coast through:

- \$19.1 million for a new road link between the Sunshine Motorway and Warana often referred to as the Kawana Arterial Road.

- \$3.7 million for an upgrade of the Sunshine Motorway between Wise's Farm Underpass and the Maroochy River.

31 extra Sunshine Coast teachers above growth projection numbers

The Beattie Government's commitment to Education can never be questioned. This is evidenced by 31 additional teachers over and above growth for the North Coast Cluster of schools (Mooloolaba and Nambour Districts).

Just some Education funding achievements for the Sunshine Coast region include:

- \$15 million set aside for the new Chancellor Park State High School

- \$1.1 million for four General Learning areas and toilets at Currimundi Special School

- \$1.4 million in Triple R (Repainting, re-Roofing and water Reticulation) Program at 14 schools on the Sunshine Coast.

- \$260,000 in Capital Assistance to upgrade facilities at Sienna Catholic Primary School.

- More than \$650,000 in Capital Assistance to upgrade facilities at Pacific Lutheran College, within the recently developed Kawana Waters area.

The Coast's Smart potential has been identified through State Development offering a \$500,000 grant to the Innovation Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast for operational funding to assist in the establishment of a technology incubation facility at Sippy Downs, and \$580,000 for the Nambour Arts incubator to provide a home for performing arts, visual arts and craft groups on the Sunshine Coast.

New multi \$million TAFE facilities opened

Ensuring that our region is a part of the Smart State the Queensland Premier Peter Beattie recently opened a major new Multi Million Dollar TAFE facility at Mountain Creek.

This state of the art, new facility will provide quality vocational education and training delivery in the core areas of information technology, tourism and hospitality and community health education. Other training areas include personal services, language studies, pre-tertiary studies, marine studies and coastal recreation. Support facilities incorporated into the design are a high technology learning resource centre, lecture theatre, conference facilities, information and enrolment centre, counselling and staff facilities. Bolstering our Government's commitment to easing unemployment ensuring the right training and creating real jobs locally.

Significant Local Government projects that outline how the Beattie Government is allocating substantial funding locally include:

\$12.3 million subsidy to the Caloundra-Maroochy Water Supply Board to help provide capital infrastructure for works related to water and sewage services—Landers Shute Project

\$133,000 to Caloundra City Council to install ALERT Flood Warning Systems for local waterways including the Mooloolah River and Currimundi Creek floodplain.

Funding Programs during 2001 and 2002 have 30 organisations on the Sunshine Coast provided a total of \$985—170 under the Minor Facilities Program and eight organisations were approved a total of \$2,948,290 under the Major Facilities Program.

During 2001 and 2002 the Club Development Program provided 183 Sunshine Coast organisations a total of \$472,052.

The Queensland State department of Natural Resources has also played a role by contributing \$1.6 million in funding to help improve the health of rivers and waterways in our area through the Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership.

The Beattie Government through the Families Department has established a youth justice community conferencing program on the Sunshine Coast to give young offenders the chance to meet with victims of their crimes and other affected parties, to repair damage caused and make amends.

It is part of a state-wide rollout of the program over the next two years.

More than \$133,985 is available to provide infrastructure upgrades for Sunshine Coast outside school hours care facilities as part of a three-year, \$4 million commitment by the Beattie Government to upgrade existing Outside School Hours Care services across the State.

The Beattie Government's support for those in needs extends to funding of \$750,000 over three years for the establishment of the Suncoast Cooloola Outreach Prevention and Education Service (SCOPE) to help men, women and children experiencing domestic and family violence in the Sunshine Coast and Cooloola areas, including Noosa, Maroochy, Caloundra and Cooloola shires.

The opening of this regional service fulfils a Beattie Government election commitment to build safer communities.

More than \$370,000 funding has been made available for a new service, as well as four additional Department of Families staff, to conduct 12-month trials in the Sunshine Coast

Over 50 extra Police for the Sunshine Coast

The Beattie Government's achievements with police are evidenced on the Sunshine Coast. Police numbers have been increased with the allocation to the Sunshine Coast Police District up by 46 since February 2001.

Our Government has introduced new anti-hooping laws, aimed to help improve community safety in our area. The State Government has also established a 14 officer Tactical Crime Squad on the Sunshine Coast.

We have also provided a \$459,000 state-of-the-art Water Police vessel for the Sunshine Coast Water Police launched in October last year, which compliments the doubling of Water Police numbers based at Kawana.

More than \$40 million for major Sunshine Coast Health improvements

Our Government's increasing support for Health facilities on the Sunshine Coast was further evidenced with the official opening in November 2002 of a new Clinical Services facility and refurbishment of clinical and support areas as part of the \$26 million Nambour Hospital redevelopment.

Bolstering this, \$3.1 million was allocated to Nambour Hospital in the 2002-03 State Government Budget as part of a \$5.8 million boost to Sunshine Coast Health Services.

This \$3.1 million includes \$1.6 million for an additional 30 inpatient beds in the financial year and \$780,000 to intensive care services at the hospital.

The \$14.73 million redevelopment of the Caloundra Hospital was officially opened in April 2001.

As well, the number of doctors was doubled for Caloundra Hospital's Emergency Department from four to eight.

Also was the establishment of a 17-bed rehabilitation unit at Caloundra Hospital, staffed by 3 doctors, 18 nurses, 2 physiotherapists, 2 occupational therapists, a speech pathologist and a dietitian.

The Beattie Government allocated an amount of just over \$2.5 million on new and upgraded equipment in the Sunshine Coast Health Service District.

More than \$1.9 million of this was allocated to the Nambour Hospital to purchase hospital equipment and Caloundra Hospital received \$650,000 for staff and infrastructure enhancements in the emergency medicine department, specialist outpatient services, and inpatient services.

The Beattie Government's commitment to Emergency Services provision on the Sunshine Coast includes:

- \$879,000 for the QAS Communications centre at North Buderim
- \$583,000 for a replacement ambulance station at Buderim
- \$595,000 for a replacement ambulance station at Nambour
- \$558,000 for a replacement ambulance station at Tewantin
- \$320,000 for a fire truck for Kawana,
- \$540,000 for a fire truck for Maroochy.

- \$540,000 for a fire truck for Noosa
- \$305,000 for land and the construction of a new Mooloolah Fire Station.

Sustaining the Beattie Government's Smart State drive Innovation has been encouraging the take-up of ICT in our communities.

Sunshine Coast assistance examples are: the University of the Sunshine Coast, \$10,000; \$14, 984; and, Cooloola Sunshine Coast TAFE, \$10,000.

The Beattie Government's Smart State support for Innovation in the State has a clear regional component as evidenced by the Government using its buying muscle to facilitate the construction of the Reef Network—a \$117.5m competitive broadband fibre running between Brisbane and Cairns.

This has not only has it cut wholesale broadband costs by two thirds, but it didn't cost taxpayers a cent, the Beattie Government is working with various Sunshine Coast Councils to lobby the Federal Government to assist in ensuring all Coastal residents have improved access sooner rather than later.

Kawana rates

I must at this point commend the working relationship that I've continued to enjoy with Mayor Don Aldous of Caloundra City Council and Deputy Mayor Don Smith and the majority of Caloundra City Councillors. While we differ on some issues, and that is the normal democratic process, I do believe that the financial position of Caloundra City Council should be commended but that they should be very wary of any major rate rises that they will burden on their rate payers across Caloundra City.

Kawana should never be the milking cow for Caloundra City Council. With the recent boom in property prices, Caloundra City Councillors must work to ensure that Council budgets do not force people out of their homes by an inability to meet Local Government Rates and Charges. Local Government rates and charges do not have to increase in direction proportion to people's property valuations. Councils have the ability to leave rates at an affordable level and this should be strongly encouraged.

The market (or Real Estate) value of many Kawana properties, has continued to significantly rise in the last year or two. Along with this real estate boom has come an increase on the unimproved capital value, or UCV of many properties. Local Councils need to ensure that all residents share the burden imposed on them by Local Government services. Some residents seriously fear that they may be forced from their family properties, unless the Council works in a very proactive and positive way to maintain rates at an affordable level. Many residents fear they will be forced out of their homes because an increase in rates is not commensurate with an increase in people's incomes.

I am very proud to have been part of Caloundra City Council for close to four years and Caloundra prided itself on being a very affordable, well-run council that delivers some very good services. Councils need to be very aware of 'empire building' and bureaucratic duplication. Local Governments should always keep their eye on the basics and deliver the basics well. Once they deliver the basics well, they should, if the majority of constituents want them to provide extra services, provide those services only where necessary, achievable and affordable.

Establishing Sunshine Coast Airport as key aviation hub

By supporting the establishment of Virgin Airlines in Queensland tourism support for the Sunshine Coast has been enhanced by the Beattie Government—especially in their establishment of direct Sydney flights.

The Beattie Government's support for the establishment of Singapore Airlines flight training centre at the Sunshine Coast has added an exciting new dimension with potential for other carriers to take up pilot training in an excellent environment.

I commend the bill to the house.