



Speech by

**Hon. D. WELLS**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Hansard 9 October 2003

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Heritage Home Loan**

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (10.00 a.m.): Last month I launched a Queensland first bank loan allowing owners and buyers of recognised heritage houses reduced interest rates for home loans.

**Mr Palaszczuk:** Which bank?

**Mr WELLS:** I thank the Minister for Primary Industries for his question. The new Bendigo Bank Heritage Home Loan scheme was developed in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Trust of Queensland. The new loan scheme will help conserve the traditional timber and tin Queenslanders by providing incentives for owners of heritage listed buildings, or buildings in local government character precincts, to maintain the heritage values of their properties. I applaud Bendigo Bank on this commitment.

This initiative is about restoration and major renovations of our unique Queenslander homes. This idea builds on a previous state government partnership with Bendigo Bank that established the Green Home Loans scheme, which has been extremely successful. Bendigo Bank will offer a reduced interest rate of 0.5 per cent below their standard variable rate for initial purchases or conservation works to heritage properties. To qualify, properties will have to be listed on a local government heritage register or within a character housing zone identified as part of an approved local government planning study. They will also be eligible if they are listed with the National Trust of Queensland or are on the Queensland Heritage Register.

The heritage home loan will be available to a wide range of potential home owners or buyers, including owners of heritage listed properties wanting to conduct major renovations, buyers of heritage recognised homes or home owners in heritage precinct areas, such as Brisbane City Council's character residential precincts. Many honourable members will have constituents who will be able to benefit from this initiative.

In recent years the Environmental Protection Agency has offered heritage grants through the very popular Queensland Community Cultural Heritage program. This program concluded in June this year. It assisted, in particular, voluntary organisations and local groups involved in heritage preservation. I am pleased to announce today that those grants will continue this year. Our past is not another country but the home town of our present. Our built heritage is not the rubbish of another country but the furniture of the house in which we now live. These initiatives represent the commitment of this Labor government to preserving that heritage.