



Speech by

JO-ANN MILLER

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Hansard 15 May 2003

RIVIERA CARAVAN PARK

Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (7.11 p.m.): Recently tenants in the Riviera Caravan Park at Goodna were advised that the caravan park would be closing effective 19 June 2003. The tenants were informed of this on Easter Thursday. The management of the caravan park gave the tenants their statutory notice, in accordance with the law, but many tenants had a troubled and worried Easter break.

When I heard about this I was determined that all the tenants in the caravan park would be treated with dignity and respect. I called a meeting of all relevant public service agencies including the Department of Housing, the Department of Families, Centrelink, Disability Services, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Health, Education Queensland and also some non-government agencies to assist the tenants in their time of need. We have already met on two occasions and further meetings are planned. I place on record how much the caravan park tenants appreciated their assistance.

We had a one-stop shop meeting at the park on a recent Friday morning where tenants could meet with departmental officers and seek assistance with their needs. Some needed assistance in simply completing Department of Housing forms and other forms from government agencies, some needed assistance with Centrelink, some needed social worker assistance and some brought up basic issues associated with health matters. Some tenants were concerned that they need to stay locally because they had good doctors who have treated them over the long term. As this parliament is aware, we have a chronic shortage of doctors in the Ipswich area, particularly in my electorate. Some also had students at local primary schools. They were concerned that they did not want their children's learning interrupted.

We are all working together to help the tenants of the Riviera Caravan Park and I am so proud of our local community spirit in this process. Public servants are working side by side with locally based community development officers. Public servants are working with our Lions Club and Tom Boyle and other services clubs to determine how to physically shift the tenants and other matters. Our tenants are working with us so that they can help themselves.

I do hope that the Public Service Commissioner takes note of the dedication of these officers who have pulled out all stops to provide assistance. On behalf of the tenants, I want to thank them for their dedication and commitment. I also want to thank the caravan park managers who have gone out of their way to help us to help the tenants. As you can imagine there has been great tension, there have been angry moments, but the managers, in the end, are simply doing their job.

Many people have already arranged alternative accommodation. Some have moved their vans to other caravan parks. Some have sold their vans and want to live in houses or units. Some intend to live with relatives in the short term.

When I was elected to this House I said that no-one in my electorate would ever walk alone while I was their member. It has been a privilege to meet and work with the tenants. It has been a pleasure for them to come to my office to seek assistance. I wish the tenants well in the future.

Time expired.