



Speech by

**Hon. K. LINGARD**

**MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT**

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Hansard 10 September 2003

### **SUNCORP STADIUM**

**Hon. K. R. LINGARD** (Beaudesert—NPA) (11.09 p.m.): I wish to speak about two issues. Firstly, I refer to the irresponsible attitude by both the Minister for Sport and the Minister for Public Works in respect of the returfing of Suncorp Stadium. Anyone with commonsense would realise that the government is being irresponsible in thinking it can returf Suncorp Stadium three weeks before it is host to a Rugby Union World Cup match. I can just imagine the pressure that will be placed on that surface when players form rucks on it. To think that such a loose new surface will stand up to that is completely irresponsible. It is a disaster waiting to happen. We saw what happened at the Gabba when they tried to lay turf in front of the Aussie Rules posts. Aussie Rules and soccer are completely different in terms of the pressure players put on turf. Rugby Union rucks and scrums will be forming over turf that has been laid for only three weeks—loose turf that is very deep and has to be watered—and that is a disaster waiting to happen. I think there is going to be an embarrassment.

The second issue concerns an approach to me from the board of South Coast School Sport. All of us would be approached by young people going on sporting tours and whose parents have to raise \$1,400 or \$2,000 in order for them to participate. The issue raised by the school sports board is the 'continually spiralling cost of transport borne by our students and obviously parents to enable them to participate in our well organised inter-school sports program'. The board states—

Sport and physically active recreation are an important part of Queensland's lifestyle and play a vital role in developing our children and young people.

...

It is important that children are given opportunities ...

Through sport, our Schools, perform a vital role.

It states further—

It is our intention to fulfil these stated roles of schools servicing lower socio-economic communities, but the costs have become almost prohibitive, with parents and schools able to offer only limited opportunities for students to participate in sporting activities due to the cost of transport.

...

On behalf of the ... School ... Board I wish to thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns over this very real problem confronting our schools and therefore limiting opportunities for our students.

Any member who has been approached by any of these young people knows how much a parent or child has to pay to participate in a sport in order for some of these kids to become elite sportsmen. If they do not participate, they do not have a chance of going on in the future. I believe Sport and Recreation has to do something positive on behalf of the government to help to support these young people.