



Speech by

LEX BELL, MP

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard 30 October 2003

MACINTOSH ISLAND PARK; GOLD COAST INDY

Mr BELL (Surfers Paradise—Ind) (7.10 p.m.): We have just completed another successful Indy despite rain and hail. At least this year, unlike last year, we did not have a situation in which the pace car was the winner. I would like to thank the government for its contribution and for its support of the Indy program. However, amid the euphoria we must bear in mind that there is a significant group of people within the electorate of Surfers Paradise who are greatly discommoded by the Indy festival and who dislike it with a vengeance. Most of these people are quite legitimate stakeholders because they live very near the track. Those who came to live near the track after the Indy races commenced—some years back now—could be taken to have understood what they would have to bear during the IndyCarnival. But there are very many long-term residents of that area who were there before the Indy race and they, of course, had no say about the imposition of the Indy race in their area and the inconvenience, the noise and the difficulties which it would create. I think it is incumbent upon all of us to try to minimise the inconvenience suffered by these particular people and to address their concerns.

On 11 September in this House I asked the Premier whether he knew about a further incursion into MacIntosh Island park, a very large park used by the people who live in the vicinity of the Indy track. The Premier gave me an answer which made me very happy. He said that neither he nor, on inquiry, the Deputy Premier, who is the Minister for Sport, knew anything about a further incursion for the purpose of making a roadway through MacIntosh Island park. I passed that on to the interested people. However, now there is a very great concern that the V8 contestants in the Indy race want a further very large section of MacIntosh Island park taken to create new pits for them. If that occurs there will be a mini riot. I certainly could not be taken to support for one minute further incursion to create additional pits for V8 racers. The 2003 race proceeded quite satisfactorily for V8s without any incursion for additional pits. I submit that that proves that the race can continue with V8s without additional space being taken from MacIntosh Island park. We should listen—we must listen—to those affected.