



Speech by
**Hon. NITA
CUNNINGHAM**
MEMBER FOR BUNDABERG

Hansard 19 August 2003

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Death of Mr E. D. Jensen, MP

Hon. N. I. CUNNINGHAM (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Planning) (9.47 a.m.): This morning I rise to pay tribute to the late Lou Jensen, as he was well known. Lou Jensen represented Bundaberg as a member of the Queensland parliament from 17 May 1969 to 12 November 1977. As the Premier said, the late Lou Jensen was born in Darwin. He was educated at the Nundah State School, the Brisbane Grammar School and the Brisbane Technical College, where he gained a Diploma in Sugar Chemistry. He worked in the sugar industry at Fairymead until 1941, in munitions factories from 1941 to 1946, in the Fairymead, Isis and Mackay sugar mills until 1957 and then in sugar mill and research technology until 1969, when he was elected to this House. His expertise in sugar technology was well known and he was clearly seen by the electorate to be well qualified to represent the sugar city of Bundaberg in the Queensland parliament. After a long career in the sugar industry spanning almost 40 years he was elected as the state member for Bundaberg on 17 May 1969.

During his eight years in office, he became well known for his humour and his sometimes controversial comments, as we heard from the Opposition Leader. Lou always had the welfare of Bundaberg at heart. In his first speech to the parliament 34 years ago he raised issues that are still relevant today. He was taken to task by the then member for Burnett, because he asked a question about the Burnett electorate. Lou answered, 'I asked about his electorate—about the water supply scheme—and I asked that question because it is vital to the City of Bundaberg,' and he offered him one of his cards that were printed with the words 'Fight for water'.

Ironically, he went on to say that the water scheme, which at that time was called the Burnett-Kolan scheme, had been proposed to ensure security to sugar cane farms in addition to providing an adequate water supply for many small crop farms and the city of Bundaberg, which will require additional supplies of water for its future needs and for secondary industries. He said that expenditure was needed to remove the fear of salt getting into the underground water supply. Those comments back in 1969 showed vision and highlight just how long we have been fighting for that water in Bundaberg.

Lou Jensen is survived by his wife, daughters and grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by them all. While his eight years in the parliament was only a small part of his 88 years—and his wife and family have many more memories and personal events to recall—Lou Jensen worked hard for Bundaberg during those eight years. He was involved with numerous local groups. His contribution to this parliament is recorded in *Hansard* and will live on as part of the history of this great state of Queensland.

It was my privilege to represent the Queensland government at his recent funeral service in Bundaberg and to extend our condolences personally to Mrs Jensen and her family.