



Speech by

Liz Cunningham

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard Thursday, 30 September 2004

TARGINIE, PROPERTY BUYBACK

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (6.11 p.m.): I again want to speak about concerns by residents who are located in Targinie. I want to read to the House part of a letter from an officer from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy taking action on behalf of the Department of State Development. The letter reads—

Further to the without prejudice conference, the Department of State Development and Innovation on behalf of the Coordinator-General has revised its previous offer and is now prepared to make a without prejudice offer to acquire—

that is, acquire this person's property. I have left any identifiers out. The letter continues—

Such offer includes an amount of—

a certain amount of money—

for plant and equipment on the property as previously agreed upon. Your clients' early reply to the above offer would be appreciated. If the offer is acceptable, please advise of any additional disturbance items your clients may have, their preferred settlement date and whether they wish to rent at a weekly rental of ...

The letter then goes on, and this is what people have found intimidating—

Should your clients not accept this offer, it will be withdrawn after 14 days of the date of this letter and they may continue to live on the property without interference from the Coordinator-General until at least December 2007. After that time, the property may be compulsorily acquired. Your clients should be aware that, if this matter proceeds to a Land Court hearing, the position taken by the Coordinator-General at that hearing may be different to that which is presently being offered to them in this letter of offer and the previous without prejudice negotiations. Obviously the ultimate decision on the value of the property will be up to the Land Court if the matter was referred to it. However, the amount which has been offered to your clients, whether that amount was arrived at by valuation or otherwise, should not be taken as the minimum amount they will receive. Your clients may receive less than this offer from the Land Court. The costs incurred in the Land Court process may not necessarily be met by the Coordinator-General.

These landowners—and over half have shifted; many of them have accepted the offer because they felt intimidated—continue to feel intimidated and one person used the word 'blackmailed' by the way these letters are written. One landowner consistently asked that his plant and equipment not be included in the valuation, and that has been ignored. Houses that have been purchased are being offered back to the landowners at quite expensive high rents. Our region has high rents, but this is a rural community. It has no water, no power and no mail service. So the government is offering these houses back to these residents at urban rates. As a result, they are not being accepted. The houses are being left derelict and are being vandalised, and these are people's homes. They have lived there for years. The buyback at Targinie is one that has been caused—

Time expired.