



Speech by

## Hon. Henry Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 1 March 2006

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### INALA SHOPPING CENTRE FREEHOLDING BILL

**Hon. H PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Water) (3.55 pm): As the member for Inala for 21 years and as a resident of the local area for most of my life, I think it pertinent that I thank our current minister for achieving what we in Inala thought was the impossible. In saying that, I would also like to pay tribute to the departmental officers who have worked day and night and who have had some very difficult negotiations with the lessees to finally get this bill together with the unanimous cooperation of all persons concerned. I would like to thank them for that.

Let us go back in time and have a look at Inala and the Inala Civic Centre—or the Inala civic, as the children of the local area like to refer to it. It was built in the early sixties. I can well remember attending the first day's shopping at the Inala civic as a very young boy. There was no transport to get there. To get there people had to walk, ride a bicycle or use a motor vehicle if they had one. There were two outstanding figures at the opening of the Inala Civic Centre. One was Doug Sherrington, who was the member for Salisbury for a number of years. Wherever Doug Sherrington went, we always had that great person who was the member for Archerfield for 12 years, Kev Hooper. Both of them were larger than life. Both of them were at the opening of Inala civic. Young people in the local area certainly noticed them and respected them for what they stood for.

In the early sixties, when the Inala civic was opened, Inala was a very different place to what it is today. In the very early sixties we had people who came from many different backgrounds. We had the first boat people who came to Inala—the Eastern Europeans, the Italians and so on. My family was one of those that settled in the Inala area in the early fifties after we came out from war-ravaged Germany. There were also quite a few thousand Australian returned servicemen who needed housing. That is the reason Inala was originally built—to provide housing for returned servicemen. Of course, we also had the English migrants who came out from England. We also had a growing number of Indigenous people who were coming off the land and moving into the city. It was quite a great multicultural mix of people. These people, through all adversity, were able to work very closely together and Inala became very well known for its great community spirit, because people were supporting each other out of adversity.

Inala civic served the local area well. Because we could not get private enterprise to build a shopping centre in Inala, the government of the day decided to provide a shopping centre for the people of Inala. That shopping centre served the people of Inala well until about the mid-eighties when quite obviously, with the population boom in the Inala area and surrounding suburbs, we needed a larger establishment. This is where the minister for energy and my good friend Bob Tucker comes in. Bob Tucker, through his company, built the new Inala Town Centre. It was a great opening back in 1985. I can well remember Claude Wharton, as the minister for public works and housing, officiating at the opening.

What that then did was create an imbalance between the new shopping centre and the Inala Civic Centre. People like to shop in a far better environment than the environment that is beside it and consequently the shopkeepers at the Inala Civic Centre suffered. When the federal member, David Bedall, established his office at the Inala Civic Centre one of the first things he did, through a CEP scheme, was to provide money to improve the very tired old Inala Civic Centre. And improve it he did. With that federal government money the Inala Civic Centre was able then to match the new Inala Town Centre.

Things were working pretty well until the new Inala shopping centre was sold and it underwent another refurbishment back in 1988. With that refurbishment the Inala Civic Centre once again was the poor person's cousin.

**Mr Mickel:** I opened that.

**Mr PALASZCZUK:** What did you open?

**Mr Mickel:** The new Civic Centre.

**Mr PALASZCZUK:** The story then goes on until we have this legislation. Once again I have to pay tribute to our current minister for public works and housing. In the eighties the National Party government tried to sell off the Inala Civic Centre and could not do it. The Goss government could not do it; David Watson, under the coalition government, could not do it.

**Mr Mickel:** Everybody tried.

**Mr PALASZCZUK:** Everyone tried. I am not saying they did not try; they tried, but it took our minister, the minister for public works and housing, to achieve a great solution which will be well received by the people of the Inala area.

I do not intend to go through the fine print of how the results were achieved; other members on this side of the House went through that quite succinctly. I mentioned Inala in the early sixties; Inala in the mid-2000s is a lot different from what it was 40 years ago. If ever one needed a fine example of how multiculturalism works it is Inala. When I go to my local schools, primary schools or high schools, the different faces up on the stage receiving awards speaks volumes for what Inala is all about. I can recall one speech night at the local high school where there were 37 different nationalities on the stage at the one time.

We all live, work and get on together. We get on together because of the policy of multiculturalism that was introduced by the Hawke government. Unfortunately, there are those out there who are trying to destroy multiculturalism. As a boat person who came from overseas, I feel that I know a little bit about multiculturalism. I want to sum up multiculturalism in this way: you try to keep your language, that is important; you try to observe the customs of your country, but you adopt the customs and the laws of your new country. When I speak to the variety of people who live in my local area, they all tell me that receiving their citizenship certificate is the proudest moment in their lives. The reason is that under multiculturalism, unless you can show a love for your own country of birth you cannot show love for your new country. That is what multiculturalism is all about. When I sit and watch the Winter Olympics and there is not an Australian involved in the event but there is a Polish person involved, I barrack for the Polish person; but if there is an Aussie there the Polish person is cast aside. That is what multiculturalism is all about. I would say to those people who should know better: for goodness' sake, let things be, because every single time multiculturalism is attacked that is another blood clot that comes closer to the heart of the person who has adopted this new country as their own.

In conclusion, I thank the minister for what he has done for the Inala Civic Centre. My good friend the minister for energy, John Mickel, with whom I taught at the Serviceton South State School for about eight years and with whom I worked in the Inala area for well over 15 years, knows what Inala is all about, he knows what Logan is all about, he knows what multiculturalism is all about. Whenever there is any multicultural function in my electorate involving Vietnamese communities and other communities it is always good to see John remember that much of his work was done in the local Inala area and he is always there to give us a hand.