



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Whitsundays, Nuclear Power Plant

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): I ask members to imagine the view across the coastline of the beautiful Mackay-Whitsunday region. It is wonderful: it has beautiful beaches, lush rainforests, idyllic islands, a nuclear power plant. That is the vision of the member for Dawson, De-Anne Kelly. That is what she wants. What a marketing tool that would be! Beautiful beaches, lush rainforests, idyllic islands and a nuclear power plant. De-Anne Kelly wants to boil the barrier reef. That is the vision of the member for Dawson, De-Anne Kelly. It is unbelievable that she has given up her community to kowtow to a push from the coalition in Canberra to move nuclear power into Australia.

I table an article that appeared in yesterday's *Daily Mercury* entitled 'De-Anne backs nuclear plant for Mackay', lest anyone think I could be exaggerating, not that I ever would.

Tabled paper: Article from Mackay Daily Mercury of 1 November 2006 (2 pages) titled 'De-Anne backs a nuclear plant for Mackay'.

The article states—

Member for Dawson De-Anne Kelly has thrown her personal support behind a nuclear power plant in the Mackay region.

If she has her way a plant will be plonked down in the middle of paradise and local tourism, business and industry will all suffer.

The article goes on to state that she believes that nuclear power could offer the region some exciting opportunities. It will be boiled barrier reef and boiled fish; the usual thing. You wouldn't have to cook the fish. I do not know why she hates the tourism industry. I bet that when the thousands of people employed in the local tourism industry read that article yesterday, it left them choking on their cornflakes. Chimney stacks and nuclear waste are not usually popular tourism drawcards, but you never know; maybe De-Anne Kelly has found a niche market that no-one else in the world has found.

Of course, there are also issues with safety and the environment. As I pointed out earlier this week, we commissioned a new report, which I tabled in the House, that shows that a nuclear power station would use 25 per cent more water than a coal-fired power station. Where does Mrs Kelly plan to get the water supply for the nuclear power plant? The only guaranteed supply would be from the ocean. The water would be pumped through cooling towers and back into the ocean, several degrees warmer than when it came out.

I do not know where De-Anne Kelly has been while everyone else has been talking about global warming. She has no understanding of the fact that the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef is global warming. She simply cannot do this. She will heat the reef, wreck one of the most popular tourism attractions in the world and destroy the local economy.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr BEATTIE: The former Leader of the Opposition should be quiet. He was not even in the chamber last night for the debate on climate change. Not one member from the National or Liberal parties was in this parliament when the member for Nicklin moved a resolution in relation to climate change. Those opposite do not accept the fact that one of the major problems facing this planet is climate change. They

want to play ostrich. Let the record show that the National Party supports a nuclear power reactor in Mackay. Opposition members should ask the local tourism industry what it wants. They should tell the people who support the reef that they want to see the Great Barrier Reef boiled. Those opposite should tell people that they want to bleach the barrier reef.

Opposition members: Oh!

Mr BEATTIE: They do not like the truth. On the one hand, those opposite want to say that they support nuclear power, but then they want to hide from the ramifications of it. What are they going to do? Put it in a vacuum and hide it?

Mrs Kelly is supposed to be a representative of the local community, not Canberra. When will she ever stand up for Queensland?

Mr Mickel: You cannot have your yellowcake and eat it.

Mr BEATTIE: I take that interjection, because I want it on the record. We can see the consequences of eating yellowcake. Just look across the chamber.

Mrs Kelly should stick up for her local constituents and not offer them up as sacrificial lambs. She should take a leaf out of the book of the member for Mackay. Tim Mulherin who immediately voiced strong opposition to the idea and pointed out the obvious: the local tourism industry would be outraged at the prospect of a nuclear power plant in the Mackay-Whitsunday region. I make it clear that my government will fight it every step of the way. We will do everything we can to stop a nuclear reactor being built in the Whitsundays, because we think it is incompatible. It is very simple: we will fight to protect the Great Barrier Reef.