



Speech by

## Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Wednesday, 1 March 2006

---

### INALA SHOPPING CENTRE FREEHOLDING BILL

**Hon. RE SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (4.07 pm), in reply: I am following the absolute father of Inala and his brother here behind me so I am not going to say too much in terms of their historic knowledge and obvious love and commitment to this area, but I will say this about the minister for natural resources: when I first became the minister he came to me and said, 'For heaven's sake, see if you can get this fixed up.' Here we are nearly eight years later and we have finally found a solution.

I thank the shadow minister for his contribution and the positive way he has gone about this. This has been something, as the minister pointed out, that has troubled governments for a long period of time. I want to thank the public servants in the Department of Housing associated with this over a long period of time who have come up with this solution and those who assisted in the honourable minister's department.

What we have come up with is a way to get rid of this off our books. It is as simple as that. It was something that we had to do because not only was it taking up the valuable time of the public servants concerned; we also do not have the expertise to manage shopping centres. That is the fact of it. It was also a drain on the housing fund; there is no question about that.

With those few remarks, I want to thank everybody who contributed to the debate today and again acknowledge the research work put in by the shadow minister. I commend the bill to the House.

Motion agreed to.