



Speech by
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 22 May 2007

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.27 am): There is a tidal wave of anger and protest sweeping regional Queensland as communities everywhere realise the extent of the attack on their future and viability that has been launched by the Beattie Labor government. That tidal wave of anger and protest has resulted in protest meetings and public meetings right across the state. Those meetings have been attended by people from right across those communities—from community leaders, mayors and councillors through to council workers who wear safety shirts every day, not just when they want their photo taken.

The announcement that we heard in the parliament this morning from the Premier that he is prepared to put some money in the budget next week to guarantee those people's jobs will do little to abate the anger that has been expressed at those public meetings. It gives the lie to the claims that have been made by the Deputy Premier that nobody is going to lose their jobs because of this process. Of course people are going to lose their jobs. The people in the communities know that, the people who value those jobs know that, and no small amount of government compensation is going to compensate them for that loss.

There has also been an extraordinary attack by the Premier on people who serve as mayors and councillors on behalf of their communities right across Queensland. Queensland's councillors are not politicians; they are community workers. They are people who work in a semi-voluntary capacity for the betterment of their own community. They work for their community in a local capacity. That is what the members opposite do not understand. Those councillors work for their community because they love their community, and they will fight to protect their community. Those councillors should be commended for the great many things they do on behalf of their community. They should not be attacked by the Premier and a government that is set on a politically motivated course of action.

Time expired.