



Speech by

# Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Tuesday, 6 February 2007

---

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (4.46 pm): I am honoured to be able to represent my constituents in the electorate of Nicklin and respond to the Governor's address. Before doing so I acknowledge my wife Jenny who gave up her full-time career as a journalist to work tirelessly as my campaign manager, my strategist, my speech writer and my confidante. Without Jenny's involvement I have no doubt that I would not be standing here today as the member for Nicklin.

I also would like to thank my staff: Vicky, Wendy and John and the members of the Wellington Volunteer Army for their loyalty and support over the years. Together we have made a difference for the good of the electorate of Nicklin and I look forward to this strong partnership continuing so that the good outcomes can continue.

To the Premier and his ministers, congratulations on a convincing win. While there will certainly be occasions when I will not support the government, I look forward to continuing to work with the government on issues that impact on my electorate. Health services are paramount. I look forward to the health minister making an announcement in the future on issues which we have been working on for some time, issues which were held up during the recent state election. I certainly appreciate the regular meetings I have with senior Queensland Health staff and I know my constituents appreciate those as well.

On the issue of police services, I am pleased to report that the new air-conditioned extensions to the Nambour Police Station are very well received by our Nambour police officers. Again I thank the minister for enabling her senior police officers to have regular discussions with me about issues of mutual interest.

On the issue of education, the rapid population growth in the south-east Queensland region has certainly impacted on the public education facilities on the Sunshine Coast. I put on the public record also my appreciation for the ability to pick up the phone and ring senior education department staff to talk about issues of concern that have been raised with me by parents, students or staff.

I note in the Governor's address that reference has been made to the government's proposed solutions to the water crisis that we are experiencing at the moment. While I support the rainwater tank rebate system and the desalination system, I do not believe that the Traveston Dam is sensible and I believe that time will tell whether the federal government or the court will finally stop this decision.

On the issue of disability services and services for our community, I note the government's ongoing commitment to continue to improve the lives of people with a disability and those in need. I thank the minister for communities and disability services for ensuring that his door is always open to hear the requests for help that I bring to his office on behalf of my constituents.

I refer to the government's infrastructure plan and the government's attempts to respond to the huge needs of the Sunshine Coast region. While investigations are due to start this year into the upgrade of the railway line between Landsborough and Nambour, I use this opportunity to urge the government to look at bringing forward the construction timetable so that more people would be able to have the opportunity to travel by rail in preference to on our roads, which are so often gridlocked.

The Nambour Connection Road and the Kenilworth-Eumundi Road are two roads of high priority in the electorate of Nicklin. They certainly carry a large volume of traffic. I use this opportunity to call on the government to bring forward the final solution to the traffic and transport needs on the Nambour Connection Road and to bring forward the upgrade of the Belli Creek crossing No. 2 on the Kenilworth-Eumundi Road.

Until the Kenilworth-Eumundi Road upgrade is completed, I use this opportunity to call on the minister for transport to reduce the current maximum speed limit along this road. I do not believe the heavy haulage trucks and trailers that are regularly up and down the road from five in the morning till after 6 o'clock at night can safely travel the road at the maximum speed limit.

I use this opportunity to thank the Minister for Emergency Services for purchasing land previously owned by the Sunshine Coast Show Society for the future Nambour Fire Station. I use this opportunity to remind the government that now that the land has been purchased, we need to look forward to the date that construction and planning for the new station can take place. I also thank the minister for agreeing to lease the surplus land back to the show society so that the land continues to be available to our community.

I share the government's concern about climate change and the possibility that a lot of the low-lying lands on the Sunshine Coast which have recently been approved for development or may now be in the process of being developed may in the future be flooded or damaged as a result of climate change. Accordingly, I use this opportunity to urge the minister for local government and the minister for environment to review council decisions wherever possible or appropriate to ensure that proper decisions are being made.

The government has my support in taking a tough stance on the issue of alcohol abuse in our communities in Queensland. My wife and I certainly appreciated the opportunity to visit and discuss with elders, councillors, police, teachers and nurses the issue of alcoholism and a whole wide range of related issues in some communities.

Ongoing funding for the Great Walks program in the Sunshine Coast region is greatly appreciated. I will continue to support this program as I know how beneficial it is to our region.

While on the issue of the environment, I use this opportunity to call on the government to finalise the commitment given during the election period to the horse riding enthusiasts in Queensland about the future security of their horse riding trails in areas such as the Mapleton forest.

Before resuming my seat, I note that in the Governor's address she specifically said—

My Government will continue to ensure that every worker gets a fair go.

I repeat what the Governor said—

My Government will continue to ensure that every worker gets a fair go.

Yesterday I attended a meeting with over 500 state government employees who told me that they no longer have confidence in the government that they will get a fair go if they are included or involved in matters referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration. I again use this opportunity to call on the government to bring on a debate about the issue of political interference in decisions made by the Queensland Director of Public Prosecutions.

A senior barrister is reported as saying—

At some stage we are going to have to have a debate about the independence of the Director of Public Prosecutions. If the executive government can review the prosecutor's decision not to prosecute someone, does that mean that they can review a decision to prosecute? Where does it stop?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Jones): Order! I ask the member to be seated. Excuse me, member, I think you are referring to matters that have been ruled by the Speaker to be out of order, and I ask that you no longer refer to them.

**Mr WELLINGTON:** I also use this opportunity to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition and all other members of this the 52nd Parliament on their election to parliament. I look forward to working with all members of the House, be they government, opposition, Independents or One Nation, in the best interests of not just the electorate of Nicklin but all Queenslanders, including all the employees of the government who have a right and an entitlement to get a fair go in this state.