




Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: INDUSTRY, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—LNP) (4.07 pm): In speaking to the Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee report, in relation to the Department of Education and Training I read that the department supports the delivery of quality education and training across the continuum of learning, through early childhood education and care, schooling, training and higher education. Last night I very passionately spoke about the effects of alcohol on our young people and the need for early education. Hoteliers are hit very hard in relation to licence fees, but very little is channelled into educating our young people. We see a lot of young people sneaking into hotels, pubs and clubs, and if they are caught then hoteliers are hit with the full force of the law.

We have seen what happens in relation to crashes and the social issues that result. I believe it is important that we educate our children on the effects of alcohol by the time they hit the schools. Through a program called Crash, Emergency Services are showing the effects of alcohol on the community. They are actually bringing this program to the schools. This is something that can go a bit further. All that money that is channelled from the hoteliers needs to be put into education so students can be prepared when they enter the big world.

Also in relation to education and care I wish to bring to the attention of the House a problem of flying foxes in Charters Towers that needs to be addressed. Colomba Catholic College is right beside a park. The school has been putting up with the smell, ticks and parasites that are in that area. It is very unhealthy to have bats and school kids co-existing. Last year we had a problem at the Charters Towers State High School and the Millchester State School, but nobody wanted to do anything about it. There were thousands of bats above the trees at the schools. As members would understand, bats are killing people, they are killing dogs and they are killing horses. It is very unhealthy to have thousands of bats in our schools. If they do arrive in schools, they should be removed immediately. We cannot be sympathetic to the flying fox cause; we need to be sympathetic to the children's cause at all costs. Bats are vermin and they carry a lethal virus. It is not good for children and bats to co-exist. Therefore, it is hypocritical for the government to talk about education and care, because no care has been shown in making students put up with bats day in and day out.

The report mentions the fly-in fly-out workforce in Central Queensland. Moranbah is one of the biggest centres in North Queensland. When I was first elected in 2004, when people walked down the town square they would know everybody. There was social interaction and community participation. Kids were safe in the street. After the massive boom and increase in drive-in drive-out and fly-in fly-out practices, basically no-one knows who's who or what's what. There has been a massive increase in antisocial behaviour. There has been an increase in brawls. There has been an increase in crime. However, I am not saying that they are all baddies or anything like that.

I make it clear that nobody is against fly-in fly-out. What we are against is a 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforce. BMA's Caval Ridge Mine is a massive project on the outskirts of Moranbah. The workers there use the health services and the dental services, but they contribute very little to the community and the community does not benefit at all from them. Even a 70 per cent workforce is probably a bit too much, but that was what the application stated and that was okay. However, things have gone too far.

The report talks about economic development in the Surat and Galilee basins. Everyone supports mining. Everyone knows how important it is in relation to royalties and benefits to the state. However, I question the proposal by the three companies, Adani, Hancock and Waratah, to build three rail corridors. If they are going to build a rail corridor then build one, not three. You do not want three corridors running through—

(Time expired)