



Speech by


**Peter Wellington**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

Hansard Tuesday, 13 November 2012

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## **NAMBOUR COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN; MARY VALLEY SCARECROW FESTIVAL**

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (11.47 pm): Tonight I wish to thank two ministers of the government for recent decisions that they have made that have impacted on my electorate. On behalf of the Nambour Community Preschool and Kindergarten Association, I thank the Minister for Education, Training and Employment for providing a significant grant of \$180,000 to allow the association to completely renovate the almost 60-year-old building to not only remove asbestos material but also to make the building more environmentally friendly by meeting current building codes and implementing more sustainable practices. Whilst on the topic of kindergartens, I understand that some of our community kindergartens are struggling with the need to have appropriately trained and qualified staff to manage some children with special needs. I understand the only way some community kindergartens can provide an appropriate service to some of these special needs children is to employ additional staff members at a cost of \$24.50 an hour per staff member. I understand that this is the current award for a qualified assistant as a casual staff member.

When you multiply that \$24.50 by 30 hours over 40 weeks, you see how our community kindergartens certainly need more support to manage the special needs of the children in their care. I take this opportunity to urge the Minister for Education and Training to have his staff further investigate this matter. Tomorrow I will write to the minister about one of my community kindergartens struggling with this very real problem, and hopefully his office will provide some guidance on how to manage this situation.

I also wish to acknowledge the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Earlier today I withdrew my private member's bill which referred to the Kenilworth and Traveston Crossing dam site. After that decision I then met with the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The minister advised me that he has now removed all reference to the Kenilworth and Traveston Crossing dam sites from the description of the area covered by the restrictive covenants in the Mary Valley under the Mining Resources Act. The restriction on mining activities in parts of the Mary Valley will remain in the areas covered by the two restrictive covenants. I thank Minister Cripps for listening to us.

While I am talking about the Mary Valley, I will share with members that over the weekend I had the opportunity to attend the Mary Valley Scarecrow Festival. I also had the opportunity to present prizes to the winners of the various categories of the scarecrow competition. The scarecrow competition is becoming a must-see event each year in the Mary Valley. We have some real artwork on display. It is not just about traditional scarecrows; a real story is also being told. A number of scarecrows may be involved. Scarecrows were presented from the areas from Conondale through to Kenilworth, Kandanga, Carters Ridge and so on. I thank all of those families and children who are involved in putting together the scarecrows. I certainly look forward to their involvement again next year.