



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Wednesday, 10 October 2007

YABULU SOUTH TO INGHAM TRANSMISSION LINE

Mr CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—NPA) (11.58 am): The local community in the Rollingstone/Balgal Beach/Mystic Sands area has expressed serious concern about the proposal by Powerlink to upgrade the current 132 kVA transmission line between Yabulu South and Ingham to a 275 kVA transmission line along its current alignment. In line with the increase in the capacity of the transmission line, the easement required to accommodate the upgraded line must increase from 20 metres to 60 metres, significantly impacting on local landowners and potentially restricting residential development in the district.

Powerlink is currently undertaking public consultation with respect to the alignment that currently runs through this community. It is currently asserting that no final decision has been made about the final alignment of the upgraded transmission line. Consideration has been given to the proposed route of the upgraded transmission line for the growing residential area near Bluewater, which makes sense, and I welcome this given the demand for residential land in this northern beaches area and the fact that Bluewater is growing.

Residents in the Rollingstone/Balgal Beach/Mystic Sands area are expressing a strong and reasonable view that the same consideration be given to their community. The alignment should be taken west to the other side of the mountain range that runs north-south on the western side of the township of Rollingstone. I seek leave to table a non-conforming petition signed by 213 individuals expressing their concern about this issue.

Leave granted.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition relating to high voltage powerlines.

Mr CRIPPS: I have spoken in this House before about the outrageous and disgraceful behaviour of the Labor government in Queensland and Powerlink in relation to the upgrade of the Tully to Innisfail transmission line saga which has now resulted in an extravagant blow-out in project costs, proving the local community right. I sincerely hope that the upgrade of the transmission line from Yabulu South to Ingham does not result in a similar process being employed to force a particular outcome on the community. The local community acknowledges the need to upgrade the transmission line, but it is equally important that the welfare of the local community is appropriately considered and not sold out in favour of the bottom line.