



**Adjournment Speech by
GLEN ELEMES**

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Hansard, 7 June, 2007

MR ELMES (Lib: Noosa): Mr Acting Deputy-Speaker, I would like to spend the time available to me to talk specifically about the town of Kin Kin, one of the smaller communities in the electorate of Noosa.

I have previously raised in parliament the development application proposed for the Kin Kin area known as The Edge and while I can appreciate the circumstances under which the Deputy Premier called in this application, tonight does give me an opportunity to talk a little more extensively about the Kin Kin community and the measures they are taking to try and forge a successful future.

The 2nd annual Kin Kin Art, Wellbeing and Bush Tucker Day was held the Sunday before last and, in spite of inclement weather, attracted more than 5,000 visitors. Congratulations are richly deserved for Gerry Bourke who has been responsible for the event since its inception. The festival includes lifestyle demonstrations, bush tucker walks guided by local indigenous residents, bush tucker cooking demonstrations, alternative health therapies and many other activities. It is also an official event of the Noosa May Fiesta.

Mr/s Acting Deputy Speaker, it is an extraordinarily successful event which has been embraced by Kin Kin and is in keeping with the personality of the town.

Kin Kin and its residents are trying their hardest to build a future and I again urge the state to complete its review of rural land in South East Queensland quickly so that The Edge development, or another suitable applicant, could be encouraged to meet the strict building and conservation safeguards that everyone wants, and which, at the same time, provide jobs and a financially sustainable future for the entire community.

The days of timber and dairying providing an economic base for Kin Kin are well past, but those industries need to be replaced by the job generator of the future, eco-tourism. In and around Kin Kin there is an abundance of magnificent pristine countryside which must, and will be, preserved but there is also degraded farmland which would be ideally suited.

Gerry Bourke is one of a number of friends and associates who I talk to in Kin Kin on a regular basis. Fiona Sullivan the proprietor of the local newspaper, the Hinterland Voice and Colin Jackson, the organizer of the King of The Mountain event, are also great examples of the tireless workers in the Kin Kin community.

The Art, Wellbeing and Bush Tucker Festival was created by Gerry Bourke to stimulate business in the town. Sadly it is his own business, the town's general store and Post Office, which will be forced to cease trading on 30th June.

I find it incredibly sad that a business, which is at the very heart of Kin Kin, is to close. However there is an opportunity, with good management, for eco-tourism to be the salvation not only of Kin Kin but for many other small rural communities like it.

I enjoyed attending, for the second time, the Bush Tucker Day as its commonly called, and thank the organizing community, and in particular, Gerry Bourke, for their efforts on behalf of Kin Kin.
