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**Title:**  
Speech opening Loxton Historical Village

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SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN, OPENING LOXTON  
HISTORICAL VILLAGE.

2/9/73

YOUR WORSHIPS, DR. EASTICK, MR. NANKIVELL, LADIES & GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME HERE TODAY AND FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN LOXTON'S FINE HISTORICAL VILLAGE.

IT WAS JUST TWO YEARS AGO THAT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TRAVEL ASSOCIATION IN ITS SURVEY OF THE RIVERLAND AND BAROSSA AREA REPORTED THAT IT HAD "THE BASIC ATTRACTIONS OF A MAJOR TRAVEL REGION".

AT THE SAME TIME THE TEAM NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS "ESSENTIAL THAT ALL FORMS OF VISITOR ORIENTATION AND SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE REGION'S TRAVEL INDUSTRY BE UPGRADED".

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NOW TWO YEARS LATER THAT OPINION WOULD HAVE TO BE REVISED, AT LEAST TO "FURTHER UPGRADED".

THE HARD WORK AND ENTHUSIASM OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TOURISM DEVELOPERS ALONG THE RIVER AND IN THE VALLEY ARE REALLY GETTING RESULTS.

THE LOXTON HISTORICAL VILLAGE IS THE LATEST OF A SERIES OF NEW OR IMPROVED FACILITIES THAT WILL PROVE A POPULAR AND LASTING DRAWCARD FOR VISITORS. I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE A VERY GREAT SUCCESS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VILLAGE, I THINK, REFLECTS TWO NEW FACTORS ON THE AUSTRALIAN SCENE. FIRSTLY THERE IS NOW BROAD COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM (PARTICULARLY IN AREAS SUCH AS THIS) AND WHAT IT CAN DO TO REVITALISE A SAGGING ECONOMY.

THE DAYS WHEN THOSE OF US WHO PLEADED THE CAUSE OF AUSTRALIAN TOURISM DID SO IN THE WILDERNESS ARE GONE. TOURISM, I'M HAPPY TO SAY, IS NOW VERY MUCH THE "IN" INDUSTRY.

SECONDLY IT'S A FURTHER ILLUSTRATION OF JUST HOW RAPIDLY WE'VE MOVED FROM THE BELIEF THAT THIS WAS A COUNTRY WITHOUT A HISTORY TO THE REALISATION THAT WE HAVE A PAST WHICH IS RICH AND ENTHRALLING. WE MAY HAVE REALISED IT ONLY JUST IN TIME. ALREADY MUCH OF THE MATERIAL IN THE FORMS OF BUILDINGS, ARTEFACTS AND RECORDS WHICH ARE THE STUFF OF HISTORY HAVE BEEN LOST FOREVER.

VILLAGES SUCH AS THIS WHICH ARE DEDICATED TO THEIR RECOVERY, RESTORATION AND PRESENTATION IN A LIVING SETTING ARE VITAL TO THE PROCESS OF PRESERVING AND APPRECIATING OUR PAST.

AND IT'S MOST APPROPRIATE THAT AN HISTORICAL VILLAGE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT LOXTON, CERTAINLY INASMUCH AS IT CONCENTRATES ON THE DISTINCTIVE HISTORY OF THE RIVERLAND ITSELF.

THE FERTILITY OF THE RIVER AREA AND THE SETTLEMENTS AND TOWNS ALONG THE BANKS HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THEMES IN OUR HISTORY SINCE 1836 AND WELL BEFORE. THE RIVER'S EXISTENCE WAS VITAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLONY; ITS CONTINUED PURITY AND FERTILITY IS NO LESS VITAL TO US TODAY.

THIS IS WHY - IF I MAY INSERT A BRIEF PARENTHESIS - WE ARE DETERMINED THAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S RIGHTS TO THE USE OF ITS WATERS WILL BE MAINTAINED. IT'S WHY WE ARE ANXIOUS TO CO-OPERATE TO THE FULL WITH THE OTHER RIVER STATES TO ENSURE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF POLLUTION CONTROL ALONG IT AND WHY WE WILL IMPOSE RIGOROUS CONTROLS ALONG OUR OWN SECTOR.

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IT IS ALSO WHY WE REGARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DARTMOUTH DAM - ON THE AGREED TIMETABLE - AS NON-NEGOTIABLE. SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S NEED FOR ITS AGREED ENTITLEMENT TO MURRAY WATERS, AND THAT IMPLIES CONSTRUCTION OF THE DARTMOUTH STORAGE, IS TOO IMPORTANT TO ALLOW US TO TAKE ANY OTHER ATTITUDE. I HAVE EXPLAINED THIS IN DETAIL TO THE PRIME MINISTER. I AM SURE HE WILL READILY ACCEPT THE FORCE AND LOGIC OF OUR ARGUMENT.

THE PEOPLE OF THE RIVERLAND - AND THIS IS SOMETHING I NOTICE EVERY TIME I COME HERE - HAVE ALWAYS PRIDED THEMSELVES ON THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT. THIS IS, PERHAPS, SOMETHING WHICH GREW OUT OF NECESSITY AS THE PIONEERS HAD TO BATTLE AGAINST DROUGHT, POOR COMMUNICATIONS AND NATURAL PRIVATIONS. BUT THIS SENSE OF CO-OPERATIVE ENDEAVOUR AND LOCAL PRIDE IS STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE TODAY.

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IT HAS PRODUCED THIS VILLAGE - WHICH MUST SURELY HAVE ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SETTINGS ANYWHERE. WITHOUT THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE DISTRICT COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE HELP OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF LOXTON WHOSE MEMORIES OF THE EARLY DAYS HAVE ENSURED ITS AUTHENTICITY, IT WOULD NOT HAVE COME ABOUT. BOTH THE VILLAGE ITSELF AND THE SPIRIT WHICH BROUGHT IT INTO BEING MUST BE MATTERS OF VERY GREAT AND DESERVED LOCAL PRIDE.

I'M GLAD, TOO, THAT THERE HAS BEEN A MEASURE OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IN ITS ESTABLISHMENT THROUGH THE USE OF RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF MONEY IN THE CONSTRUCTION - A MOST IMAGINATIVE USE OF THOSE FUNDS. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE TOURIST BUREAU, WILL CONTINUE TO HELP THROUGH ACTIVE PROMOTION OF IT.

I SHALL BE IN SYDNEY THIS WEEK AND WHILE THERE I'LL SEE THAT THE TOURIST OFFICERS IN THE NEW SOUTH AUSTRALIA HOUSE IN THE CITY KNOW OF THIS VILLAGE AND TELL INTENDING HOLIDAYMAKERS ABOUT IT.

I DO MOST SINCERELY CONGRATULATE ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS VERY WORTHWHILE, PLEASANT AND, I TRUST, PROFITABLE VENTURE. I HOPE IT WILL BRING MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TO LOXTON AND MANY THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF BUSINESS AS WELL AND I HAVE VERY MUCH PLEASURE IN NOW OFFICIALLY DECLARING IT OPEN.

THANK YOU.