

most of his years on the bench served travelling to remote and regional Queensland, on circuit court in Queensland's Indigenous communities, where he was able to better learn and understand the culture and language of traditional owners and our First Australians. One of his finest moments before becoming a commissioner was his influence in lobbying the government to create a Murri Court, a court where justice could be dispensed to individuals of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent in a fair and impartial manner. It is a shame that Commissioner Glasgow's hard work and vision for justice in this state has been lost on the Attorney General with the defunding and axing of the Murri Court services in Queensland.

Commissioner Glasgow does not undertake this work on his own. We know that in the FRC he is supported by Deputy Commissioner Rod Curtin and myriad different local community commissioners. As I said earlier, those local commissioners are the key to the success or failure of this particular program. Commissioner Glasgow plays a terrific leadership role but I think in his absence he has some great people who are very able to perform that work. The real day to day personal work occurs through local commissioners, and I really do want to put my thanks to those people on the record.

I acknowledge the minister's comments that additional funding has been provided through the budget process, with an extra \$5.65 million allocated and with \$1.6 million allocated towards the extension of the commission. This commitment, though, is in contrast with the comments made by the member for Moggill when he was the shadow minister during estimates last year. He said —

The commission has been a reasonably expensive trial.

...

I think that people should be aware that this program applies only in four communities. I think that people sometimes get the idea falsely that this is a more extensive program than it actually is. I think it is a very valid function of the opposition to question both value for money and the effectiveness of actually making the lives of people in the subject communities better. That is our role. I will never resile from that. I think it is right and proper for us to ask questions.

I congratulate the minister for continuing down this line and in some respects distancing himself from these comments because I know that, now he is in government, he has seen the full value of this program. Of course, you can always look at how money can be better spent. I acknowledge that. This trial is expensive, but every cent of it is worth it every cent of it is worth it. Going forward, I commend the minister for having that new board approach to the way that money will be spent. I think that will be a terrific way forward. You have to compare the budget papers from last year to this year to note that an increase in the overall budget for the Family Responsibilities Commission, from \$4.2 million to \$4.4 million, has occurred. In this regard I think the comments of the member for Moggill have been relegated to the past.

I want to take this opportunity to put on the record the opposition's thanks to Commissioner Glasgow and all of the commissioners and staff who, day in and day out, are providing an important service to the four remote communities involved in this trial and involved with the Family Responsibilities Commission. I am also very pleased to say that I have formed a strong working relationship with Minister Elmes, and I hope that continues into the future. It is important because, as we all know, one of the keys to making a difference and moving towards that end goal that we all have of closing the gap is about consistency and continuity and not having short, sharp programs that go nowhere and continually trying to reinvent the wheel. These programs are working because we have stayed the course. The communities are embracing them. Communities are seeing the benefit and I think all Queenslanders are seeing the benefit. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Pitt, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

022

## MINERAL RESOURCES (MARY RIVER DAM SITE) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction



**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral Resources (Mary River Dam Site) Amendment Bill 2012.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral Resources (Mary River Dam Site) Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

My bill will provide for the removal from the Mineral Resources Act the designation of two sites in the Mary Valley identified as potential dam sites. These sites are referred to as area 118—Mary River dam site (Traveston Crossing) and area 119—Mary River dam site (Kenilworth). My bill will assist in reassuring current and potential Mary Valley residents that the government has no intention of allowing these two significant sites in the Mary Valley to continue to be identified as future dam sites.

Recently the state government released its economic development plan for the Mary Valley and has commenced the sale of land purchased by the previous government for the proposed Traveston

Crossing Dam. I believe for the state government to be able to sell this land for the best price possible it needs to remove any unnecessary impediments to the sale. The continuation of the existence of the designation of these two significant sites as restricted areas by this government will have a detrimental effect on the potential sale of the land in the Mary Valley. Only today I again checked the state government restricted area schedule, and guess what? Both sites, 118—Mary River dam site (Traveston Crossing) and 119—Mary River dam site (Kenilworth), are still listed as restricted areas.

### First Reading



**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (2.32 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Glass House Electorate



**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (2.33 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to raise a number of matters that have recently occurred in the electorate of Glass House. Firstly, I want to thank all members in the chamber for participating in Tuesday on the Day for Daniel, albeit several days belatedly, by wearing red. It is a great acknowledgement by all members of this parliament of our support for Bruce and Denise Morcombe and for the work they continue to do on child safety awareness.

I also acknowledge that the Attorney General, the Premier, the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Speaker joined me last Friday in the walk for Daniel in my home town of Palmwoods. A total of 1,100 people turned up. It was great to see that sea of red again and the ongoing community support for the fantastic work the Morcombes do. I never ceased to be amazed by the resilience of that couple. As a father, I cannot begin to imagine what they have gone through. To see them turn it into such a positive for not only our community of Palmwoods—

**Mr Johnson** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Gregory. It is great to see this government getting on board with the message the Morcombes are trying to send.

On the weekend I participated in another great event, this time to raise money for the lung cancer foundation. We have a wonderful constituent, Dr Peter Oliver, who has probably well and truly exceeded everyone's expectations in his battle with this terminal illness. As is now an annual tradition, my Celebrity 11 get together against the Maleny Maulers in an over 30s game of cricket. I am very glad to say that with the assistance of Daniel Merrett from the Brisbane Lions, Nugget from Zinc FM, Toddy from Hot FM, the Minister for Sport as well as the LNP candidate for the federal seat of Longman, Mal Brough, we finally managed to clench the all important Golden Thong Trophy. We lost it the first year. We tied last year. This year we won convincingly and we now have our hands on it. More importantly, we raised several thousand dollars for the lung cancer foundation. I would like to thank Gail Denver, in particular, from the Maleny District Sport and Recreation Club Inc. for the work done in bringing together the day. It was a great day had by all.

I was able to participate in and, indeed, open the WOEIE Festival. WOEIE stands for 'Where on Earth is Eudlo?' For those of you who do not know, I strongly encourage you to come up the highway towards—

**Mr Emerson:** Ilkley Road.

**Mr POWELL:** Ilkley Road, thank you very much, Minister for Transport. It was a great day. It is a great small school and a great initiative. To Principal Ian Webb and his team, particularly the P&C: it was another fantastic day.

Finally, it was great to be a sponsor again of the Elimbah Community Fun Day. I could not win the three legged race, which I sponsored so I had to come second. But I thank Chappy Janet for pairing with me and putting in a stirring effort to come second. To Leanne and her team for that fantastic community day: it was a job well done.