



Speech by

JEFF KNUTH

MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN

Hansard 19 November 1998

RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENCES

Mr KNUTH (Burdekin—ONP) (8.39 p.m.): I inform the House that local recreational fishermen in the Burdekin have expressed their concern over the possible introduction of fishing licences by the Queensland Fish Management Authority. Those licences have been a discussion point between the QFMA, Sunfish and other sporting and recreational fishing bodies for many years. The licences have been rejected time and time again, only to be relentlessly pursued by the QFMA.

The grounds on which recreational fishermen reject the introduction of licences are that they already pay a huge pleasure tax imposed by the Federal Government, which collects \$750m in sales tax from anglers nationally, and that recreational fishermen in Queensland pay the highest boat registration fees in Australia but see very little to justify that expenditure. In addition, it would cost more to police the licences than it is worth.

I draw the Minister's attention to the fact that these licences are strongly opposed by Sunfish. How long will it take for the QFMA to take "no" for an answer? The licence system is too full of complications to consider. For example, does one compare a person who fishes once a year with someone who fishes three times a week, or with a tourist from overseas or interstate, or even with a visitor from the outback? The only area in which licences can work is through the stocking of impoundments that are used on a regular basis, such as the Victorian freshwater trout industry.

Licensing is becoming an ever-increasing burden in our society. The stage is being set so that Queenslanders will soon need to tow a trolley behind them to hold their accumulation of licences. It is starting to appear that if one enjoys outdoor sports, one will suffer financially. One Nation strongly rejects the introduction of recreational fishing licences.

Time expired.
