



Speech by

**MIKE REYNOLDS**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Hansard 12 November 1998

### **FISH KILLS**

**Mr REYNOLDS** (Townsville—ALP) (7.20 p.m.): Tonight I draw to the attention of the House the recent fish kills in the north Queensland region. Only two weeks ago tonight I was the guest speaker at the North Queensland River Improvement Trust in Port Douglas. At that time I indicated my concern at the very large number of fish kills in the north Queensland area over the period of about a month. Since that time there have been a number of other fish kills in the region. A number of different organisations and individuals are very concerned about the effect of these fish kills and about why the fish kills actually occurred.

I commend the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources for his leadership in getting together forums in north Queensland over the next couple of weeks to really examine, through his departmental officers and a number of people who have been invited, the causes of those fish kills. There is a concern on the part of Sunfish North Queensland that it is unavailable to attend a peak body forum to be held next Monday in Ingham. The deputy chairman of Sunfish, Vern Veitch, has indicated his concern. I agree with him that quite often people such as him, who work full time, do not always have the same sort of flexibility as do people who work for themselves or who are otherwise able to easily attend those types of occasions.

I know that Sunfish has a very valuable role to play in terms of environmental management. I have approached the Minister and asked him to look at other times—perhaps weekends or nights—when people are available to make their very important input on these matters pertaining to fish kills in north Queensland.

Time expired.

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