



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Hansard 26 August 1999

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Mr D'ARCY (Woodridge—ALP) (7.03 p.m.): I rise to again deplore the loss of mangroves and wetlands in south-east Queensland. Instead of containing wetlands under current conservation concerns, there has been an acceleration of their loss. There has been no proper evaluation of the damage caused by acid sulfate soils. Dredging and ponding continues in the mangrove areas.

The latest destruction is in the Toondah Harbour area in Cleveland, where various departments and the council excised part of the Moreton Bay National Park to destroy the mangroves for ponding poisonous dredge waste. There has also been the extension of commercial boat landing facilities, housing and canal developments, golf course developments and sewerage outlets. Flood mitigation is another thing that is being used as a tool for the destruction of the environment. Departments and local governments are in collusion in promoting this destruction. All of this contributes to the loss of habitat.

The massive development at Jacobs Well, which was developed from a quarry permit by stealth, and the Couran Point canal subdivision, which has been plagued by controversy, should have been stopped 20 or 30 years ago by effective legislation. Despite my repeated calls during the 20-odd years I have spent in this House, through inquiries and Act after Act, there has been no effective, integrated conservation legislation enacted or policies put in place that have protected our coastal wetlands.

This is simply because Governments have not had the intestinal fortitude to organise their own bureaucracies and local governments. The Yes, Minister syndrome is alive and flourishing in Queensland. Hence we continue to chip away at the problem with all sorts of initiatives—even those that were announced today—without an end solution in sight. On behalf of all Queenslanders and all future generations of Queenslanders, I personally despair of this failure and condemn the vested interests in this place, the media and the greedy commercial interests that are despoiling our coastal wetlands.
