



Speech by

**PETER WELLINGTON**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

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Hansard 17 October 2000

**NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—IND) (5.09 p.m.): I rise to participate in the debate on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2000. In the Minister's second-reading speech, he provided a range of assurances to all Queenslanders, and in particular to Queensland recreational forest users, that detailed negotiations with forest stakeholders would occur before any decision would be made to restrict current public access to State forest land. I certainly will be watching this Government to ensure that the Minister's assurances to all Queenslanders on behalf of this Government will be honoured in full—not just a token commitment, but in full with fair and reasonable outcomes acceptable to current forest stakeholders.

While I am prepared to support this Bill, I take this opportunity to put on the public record that I certainly have some concerns and reservations about this Government's ability to provide sufficient State forest land at appropriate locations in this State to satisfy the demands of Queensland's recreational forest users. Notwithstanding those concerns, I am prepared to allow this Government the opportunity to follow through on the Minister's assurances of detailed negotiations with forest stakeholders.

Queensland's forests are the property of all Queenslanders and, as such, should be accessible to all Queenslanders on a reasonable scale. I also take this opportunity to call on the State Government to ensure that appropriate facilities are provided in our State forests to enable all Queenslanders to be able to experience the wonderful Queensland asset of which they are all joint owners.

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