



Speech by

**CAROLYN MALE**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Hansard 5 December 2001

**COASTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Ms MALE** (Glass House—ALP) (3.08 p.m.): I rise to support the Coastal Protection and Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2001. I say at the outset that the coast is quite iconic for all of Queensland and all Queenslanders. It is particularly so for people who come from my neck of the woods. While only a small bit of the coast, particularly the Pumicestone Passage, falls within my electorate, everything to do with the hinterland and surrounding areas impacts on the coast in one way or another. The health of our waterways and the environment we live in impacts on the coast. It eventually flows through our rivers and out to the sea. What we do in the hinterland is quite rightly reflected in what happens down on the coast.

There are a number of groups in my electorate that deal specifically with the environment of the hinterland. One such group is Barung LandCare, which works enormously hard to ensure that the community is aware of environmental issues. That group does not just talk about it; it gets out there and does it. It has had numerous tree planting events where hundreds and hundreds of volunteers come together to ensure that riparian zones are repaired and that trees are planted throughout the hinterland to increase the health of our environment and to ensure our waterways are protected.

There is also an educational component to what it does. Members of that group visit schools and talk to the children. They take farmers along to talk about issues relevant to the land and about what can be done to help the LandCare process. There is a very supportive group of people both within the farming industry and the environmental groups. I have observed them coming together and working hard to ensure that the environment is well cared for. They are a magnificent example of what a community can achieve when it works together, with the relevant environmental and community interests at its heart.

I recently attended the Sunshine Coast community's Dare to Dream event as part of the Centenary of Federation celebrations. A number of very committed individuals, led by Jill Jordan, Vivienne Coleman and Bea Rogan, worked throughout the hinterland region on the Dare to Dream project. That involved bringing the community together to discuss matters of importance to it. Several weeks ago at an event in Nambour a statement of core values for the Sunshine Coast region was released and presented to me. I will read to the House from that—

The communities of the Sunshine Coast region, comprising Caloundra City, Maroochy Shire and Noosa Shire, vision a sustainable, balanced, creative and resilient future which encompasses the values reflected in the following statements:

The first statement, which is vitally important when we talk about the environment is—

Caring for and respecting our environment and natural resources are fundamental to the liveability of our region.

Interestingly, that was chosen as the first core value which the community wished to see reflected in all levels of government—local, state and federal—and wished to see pursued. The statement continues—

Valuing our cultural heritage and honouring people's diverse spirituality will create community harmony.

Practising ethics, integrity and respect in personal and public life is integral to the development of personal growth, positive attitudes, enjoyment and a caring and compassionate society.

Fostering a diversity of community connections and opportunities for involvement, and committing to cooperation, create community cohesion.

I spoke about this earlier when I dealt with the kind of work that Barung LandCare does. The statement continues—

Improving our quality of life and sense of belonging is founded on fairness of opportunity and inspired by creativity.

The people from the Dare to Dream project throughout the hinterland entrusted me with their core values so as to make sure that this government realises the direction in which that community wishes to go. For the information of the House, I table the document which they presented to me. I encourage all members to read that and to remember those points during every step of planning in this House.

I talk about the coast being iconic for various reasons apart from the obvious environmental issues that are raised there and the fact that our entire liveability has to do with that. As someone who grew up on a farm in the hinterland but managed to spend a week every year at the Sunshine Coast, usually at Bulcock Beach, enjoying the weather, the wonderful clean water and the lovely environment that was there, I have seen it degraded as the years go by. I am taking my family back there—my husband and my two children, Jordan and Jetta—over the Christmas holidays so that they too can enjoy the type of environment that I grew up with. It is a chance for me to make sure that I foster in them a love for the environment and the need to care for it and nurture it and make sure that they too grow to appreciate it and look after it in future years. It is great to see coastal communities banding together and working together to make sure that that is one of their core values as well.

That is where this bill comes into it. This bill is all about managing and protecting. It is about safeguarding the economy but also safeguarding the ecology and looking after our liveability and lifestyle and packaging it all together so that we all have a chance to enjoy it for future generations. Back in the early 1990s the Goss Labor government had a vision about where our coastal management should go. By 1995 it presented the Coastal Protection and Management Bill, which became an act. It was the first comprehensive piece of legislation that dealt with protecting and managing the coast. When that went through, with the Hon. Tom Barton pushing that all the way, he noted that amendments would be needed with time. It is good to see that we have picked up on that and run with it to make sure that these changes come in. Once again, we are looking at promoting an integrated coastal zone management and making sure that that is protected for all time.

With the consolidation of four acts into one, we are working towards a coordinated approach to coastal management. The lead agency, the Environmental Protection Agency will work with other government agencies that have coastal management responsibilities. Once again we get back to not just governments working together at all three levels, we talk about the work that our community does. Throughout the consultation on legislation, it was good to see the types of feedback that came from all the stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Environmental Defenders Office and the Queensland environmental law agencies, as well as our state agencies and, at the local level, all the various groups such as the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, Barung and all the other ones not just in my electorate but in all areas. They all got a chance to have their say.

We need to make sure that in the planning process, especially at the local government level, we are considering the impacts of developments. At the fringe of my electorate we are looking at a huge parcel of land which has been titled Caloundra Downs. With the possibility of anywhere from 20,000 to 30,000 people eventually living on this parcel of land which butts onto the Pumicestone Passage, we must consider the opportunity to limit development, make sure that the controls are put in place and that the development goes along in a sustainable ecological way. Caloundra Downs has done a fair bit of consultation with the community and a lot of work. We need to make sure that the local council, the Caloundra City Council, takes all that into consideration when it considers what is eventually to happen with this piece of land. The last thing I would like to see is it chopped up into little 20 acre blocks where people do not have a coordinated, cohesive approach to the land care and which would eventually result in even further degradation of Pumicestone Passage and the areas around it. I would like to make sure that that is kept under consideration when we deal with not just that particular development, but other developments that occur along our coast in the future.

I would like to mention briefly some of the state schools in my electorate. I find that it is at that very early stage when we see the kind of work that our students are doing that we can see that our future will be in safe hands. For example, Conondale State School has been the cleanest, healthiest and greenest school and continually wins awards. The students are not just involved in planting trees; they go the whole way. They have recycling, they have vegie gardens and they look at composting. I had the Minister for Environment out a couple of weeks ago to launch the new solar panels on the school buildings which will turn the solar power into electricity and feed back into the grid. This is an example of the sort of sustainable environment that they live in; they actively work towards making sure that is achieved.

Also, the Mooloolah State School has a wonderful program. They work in coordination with Mooloolah Water Watch to ensure that the children are brought up to speed from an educational viewpoint on what they can do to make sure the waterways are safe and clean, and also the children then work at going out into their community and educating them as well. The volunteers from Mooloolah Water Watch and the school students work in cooperation doing all different projects where they collect bugs and monitor the health of our waterways through various testing equipment. By

working through that together and working with our students we will see a much better environment in the future.

That is why this sort of legislation that we deal with in the House today is very important. It supports the work we do at all levels of the community and at all levels of government and gets us all moving forward in the right direction. This bill, coupled with the government's recently released State Coastal Management Plan means that we will have in place the tools to ensure that our magnificent coast can be effectively and sustainably managed, and it will be managed in a coordinated way for the first time ever. I commend the bill to the House.

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