



Speech by

CAROLYN MALE

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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NATIONAL TRUST OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Ms MALE (Glass House—ALP) (11.52 a.m.): I rise to speak in support of the National Trust of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2001. The National Trust of Queensland has a proud history of protecting and enhancing Queensland's cultural heritage. Since its formation in 1963, the National Trust has always been committed to informing and educating the community about the value of conservation through its education programs, publications, festivals and, of course, its properties. It should be remembered that the National Trust has about 11,000 members of which both my husband, Bill, and I are but two. From that perspective it is important that all members of the National Trust have confidence in the immediate past procedures of the executive and ensure they are back on track.

To that end this bill will amend the National Trust of Queensland Act 1963 to empower the Governor in Council to appoint an administrator under certain circumstances to perform the executive functions conferred on the National Trust Council by the act. It will broaden the scope of the regulation-making power under the act; validate actions by and on behalf of the council following the conclusion of the invalid annual general meeting on 27 September 2000, including all processes associated with the 2001 AGM and election of the council in 2001; and update the provision for the establishment of the National Trust as a statutory body. The National Trust will continue its good work, and the members and the public will continue to benefit from their dedication and commitment to preserving the heritage of Queensland.

As I look around my electorate of Glass House I see a number of properties that I would like eventually registered with the National Trust, including the old mud house that was on my parents' property, which they have just sold. It was a rammed earth house that was built by my grandfather in the early 1930s. It was one of two, but the other was burnt down in a lightning strike in the early seventies, I believe. I still vaguely remember it. The remaining mud brick house is just a fantastic example of the kind of work that some of our earlier pioneers did in providing housing and that sort of thing for members of their family. I would encourage the National Trust to continue its good work in that area.

The National Trust and Other Legislation Amendment Bill also deals with matters under the Recreation Areas Management Act, including recommendations to increase penalties for feeding and offering food to dingoes. I speak in support of the proposed changes to the penalties for feeding dingoes that have come about due to the tragic fatal attack on Fraser Island in April. Immediately following this attack the Premier ordered that a limited cull of dingoes habituated to living in and around areas of human settlement take place, that the existing feeding laws be enforced and that a risk assessment be undertaken.

In the risk assessment prepared in May by the Environmental Protection Agency it was concluded that some existing laws with respect to feeding were inadequate. A range of management strategies was identified, including an increase in penalties associated with feeding and disturbing dingoes. This recommendation is based on information in the report that feeding or allowing food to be available for dingoes increases the risk of interactions between humans and dingoes, which can result in an increase in the likelihood of aggressive behaviour directed towards people. No-one here would want to see another horrific attack on a person. By increasing the penalties, people are reminded of their responsibility in deterring wild animals from interaction with humans.

It is also recognised that Fraser Island's dingo population is considered to be one of the purest strains remaining in Australia, and the World Heritage nomination of Fraser Island makes reference in its justification to the island's dingo population. Cabinet endorsed the implementation of the recommendations of the risk assessment report on 12 June, and the risk assessment report was tabled by the Minister for Environment in the Legislative Assembly on 21 June 2001. It is now recommended that penalties for feeding and disturbing dingoes under the by-law be set at a maximum of 40 penalty points, which is an increase from the currently prescribed 20 penalty units.

The aim of the proposed amendment is to increase visitor safety by educating visitors about the risk associated with dingoes, by discouraging dingoes from foraging in areas frequented by visitors and by returning dingoes to a natural state. The amendments respect the fact that the dingo is protected in national park areas of Fraser Island and its importance as an icon on the island. The proposed amendment is also necessary to achieve consistency with similar prohibitions recently introduced under the Nature Conservation Regulation. It must be remembered that most of the land on Fraser Island is national park estate. Combined, these amendments will enable the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to manage dingo-human interactions consistently in all townships, parks and beaches of Fraser Island. I commend the bill to the House.
