



Speech by

JOHN KINGSTON

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

Hansard 15 May 2001

FISHERIES AMENDMENT BILL

Dr KINGSTON (Maryborough—Ind) (8.20 p.m.): This issue is of great importance to my electorate, to the Cooloola area and to the electorate of Hervey Bay. It is of importance because there is a predominance of small family-owned trawlers in those electorates and it is the small family-owned trawlers that are most affected by this legislation.

When this discussion first started with the QCFO, the minister was honest with the QCFO members. He told them that he did not understand the fishing industry. He told them that he did not understand the existing legislation. He asked the QCFO to help him, and they have.

The vice-president of the QCFO actually fishes from my property. His home base is on my property, so I talk to him at least once a week. He has reported to me that the QCFO has bent over backwards trying to ensure that the department and the minister understand their position. I rang the vice-president yesterday and he reported to me that they had considerable concerns.

I rang the president of the QCFO this morning and he sent me a large amount of paper, which I cannot read in the time available, listing his concerns. The minister was honest and I congratulate him for that. He admitted that he did not know and he asked for help. He was given that help in a friendly way. However, I do not think that he has honoured that friendship tonight.
