



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 5 December 2001

COASTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (12.11 p.m.): I rise to participate in the debate on the Coastal Protection and Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2001. At the outset I place on the public record that while I do have some reservations with some parts of the bill which allow for the development of regulations and the lack of possible scrutiny of these regulations by parliament, I do intend to support the bill.

I believe it is imperative that the public right of access to Queensland's beaches and coastlines be set in concrete in Queensland legislation and be made clear and without doubt. I understand that one of the intents of this bill is to clarify the importance of ensuring for all times the right of public access to state beaches and coastline. I certainly cannot support any development proposal for the privatisation of parts of Queensland's coastline or beaches.

Years ago many people identified coastal wetlands simply as mangrove wetlands or wastes suitable solely for the development of canal estates. Fortunately today that view is in the minority in our community, where there is now a greater recognition of the important role that our coastal wetlands play as fish breeding grounds and water filtering locations—to mention only two roles previously ignored.

While I have no state coastlines in my electorate I certainly have many residents living in my electorate who work either directly or indirectly in the tourist or fishing industries and also work in other important and related industries that will be impacted on by this proposed bill. I look forward to listening to the minister's reply when he responds to the range of issues raised during this debate, and I commend the bill to the House.
