



Speech by

RACHEL NOLAN

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard 13 December 2001

NATIONAL TRUST OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (11.40 a.m.): I rise to speak in support of the National Trust of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In 2003 the National Trust will be celebrating its 40th anniversary as the foremost community based organisation involved in the protection of Queensland's cultural heritage places. It has grown from a modest organisation to one boasting 11,000 members drawn from right across the length and breadth of Queensland. One of the important roles it has played during this time is as the custodian of a range of historical places, many of which are open for the enjoyment and education of the public. These range from the former Bulls Head Inn in Drayton dating back to 1859 and houses including the humble but unique Tent House in Mount Isa to houses on farming properties, such as Wolston House and Bellevue Homestead. There are also houses in Townsville and the historic house of a prosperous Ipswich merchant, Claremont, in my electorate.

The National Trust also manages a number of places associated with the gold boom in Charters Towers such as the Venus Gold Battery, the largest operational battery in Queensland; the School of Mines, where mining engineers were trained; to the former Stock Exchange, where the wealth generated by Charters Towers gold was traded across the world. Two other rare and special buildings cared for by the National Trust are Geraghty's Store in Maryborough, a place frozen in time with all its contents, and the Hou Wang Temple, which served the Chinese population on the Atherton Tablelands. Another significant place is the James Cook Museum in Cooktown, housed in a former convent.

The foresight of the National Trust in saving these important places for current and future generations at a time before community attitudes respected these places not only benefits this state's unique cultural heritage but also offers the potential for enhancing our cultural heritage tourism. In recognition of the cultural heritage significance of many of these places to Queensland and also to the growing importance of cultural tourism as a generator of employment, a number of National Trust properties have been in receipt of funding under the Commonwealth Federation Grants program and included as part of the joint state and Commonwealth funded Queensland Heritage Trails project. These places include the James Cook Museum, which has been extended, repaired and re-interpreted; the Hou Wang temple site, which will be carefully conserved and interpreted for visitors; and the Venus Gold Battery and former Stock Exchange building, which will form important nodes in a proposed heritage trail of Charters Towers.

These places have also been included in the EPA publications *North Queensland's mining heritage trails* and *Heritage trails of the tropical north*, which aim to introduce Queenslanders and visitors to Queensland to our rich and diverse cultural heritage. Accordingly, the proposed amendments to the National Trust of Queensland Act 1963 are important in ensuring that the problems faced by the National Trust are resolved so that the organisation can continue to play an important role in the custodianship of some of Queensland's unique cultural heritage places.
