



Speech by

RONAN LEE

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

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COASTAL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (3.04 p.m.): It is an absolute pleasure to rise in support of the Coastal Protection and Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am indebted to two people for the assistance they provided to me by way of research when it came to preparing my speech on this bill. They are my electorate officer, Alister Jordan, and a young man by the name of Michael Beier, who is a work experience student in my office. He is a student from the University of Queensland and a member of the university's Economic Society of Australia. He has been a wonderful assistance in my office.

This bill has been very widely consulted on. I am sure members of the House would join with me in saying that the honourable minister and his department are doing a great job in ensuring the protection and wellbeing of Queensland's environment. Furthermore, the bill is a great example of our government's commitment to ensuring that our children and grandchildren are able to enjoy their natural surroundings as we have been able to. I applaud this bill, as it takes vital steps in coastal protection by making some necessary amendments to the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 and other legislation in order to implement the integrated development assessment system, IDAS, created under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 from development related approval systems in the Beach Protection Act 1968, the Canals Act 1958 and sections 233 and 236 of the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, dealing with sanctions, approvals and permits saved from the repealed Harbours Act 1955.

The bill also provides for the application of the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 as the primary legislation governing the assessment of development activities in coastal management districts, previously called control districts. It provides the necessary statutory authority to enable the achievement of sound coastal management outcomes. Importantly, the bill will also integrate remaining provisions from the Beach Protection Act 1968, the Canals Act 1958 and sections of the Harbours Act 1955 into the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 and allow for the repeal of these statutes upon a commencement of the provisions of the bill.

There are several other very important parts of this bill that are vitally important in protecting our coastal environment. The bill deals quite extensively with coastal vegetation and stipulates very clearly—

A person must not damage vegetation on State coastal land without—

(a) the written approval of the entity responsible for the management and control of the land;

The department's commitment to stopping beach erosion, to artificial waterways and to quarries must also be commended. This bill is a great achievement because, as members of the House would be aware, many different programs, laws and development systems exist to improve the situation of the Queensland coastal area. These laws and systems have been around for some time. In fact, the Canals Act goes back as far as 1958. Incorporating them all into one act and coordinating the different areas more efficiently will result in a more effective way of protecting Queensland's wonderful coast, on which we heavily rely in terms of tourism. We are in a unique situation whereby we can look after our environment and also create jobs through tourism.

I congratulate the honourable minister and his department on this bill. I feel we have a moral duty to look after our coastal areas and of course natural wonders such as the Great Barrier Reef. The department is proving to Australia and to the world that this can be done in an efficient, responsible and effective manner. I am delighted to support the bill.
