



Speech by

**CATE MOLLOY**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Hansard 27 November 2002

### **ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Ms MOLLOY** (Noosa—ALP) (11.58 a.m.): The Environmental Legislation Amendment Bill 2002 amends a number of pieces of legislation under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Environment, Dean Wells. Today I will confine my remarks to those amendments that deal with the Brisbane Forest Park Act 1977, the Forestry Act 1959, the Meaker Trust (Raine Island Research) Act 1981 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The bill will also amend sections 233 and 236 of the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and further carry out minor and consequential amendments to the Beach Protection Act 1968 and the Newstead House Trust Act 1939.

Before I go on to discuss the bill, I think it is important to note and continue to place on the public record my commitment to my constituents and my unequivocal and unflagging commitment to ensuring that the State Labor government, to which I was elected, upholds its election promises. I specifically refer to the D. Bird land south of the highly controversial Peregrian Springs development because of its questionable environmentally damaging impact. In the Noosa electorate, constituents from Cooloom, Peregrian, Marcus Shores, Noosa Heads, Kin Kin, Boreen Point and Eumundi and from environmental groups, the tourist sector, the chambers of commerce, the residents and ratepayers' associations from Noosa and across the electorate look to me to ensure that commitments such as the South-East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement are honoured. The Noosa council, in particular, supports the SEQFRA given the fact that the mills in Cooroy were closed.

The big hope for our community rests with diversifying our economy, and part of that diversification rests with our environment and, furthermore, our trust in the State Labor government to uphold its promise to include Yurol and Ringtail in that package. We need our environment not only to survive on this planet but also, at this stage, for ecotourism.

This bill addresses the Forestry Act 1959 under the State Penalties Enforcement Registry Scheme for an infringement notice to follow. To allow for this, the current infringement notice provisions under the Forestry Act will be repealed and the maximum penalty will be more consistent with those under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994. It is intended to deal with declined credit card payments for permits in a similar manner to current provisions dealing with dishonoured cheques.

Fortunately, we do have a new environment centre in Moorindil Street, Tewantin where payment can be made. The centre was opened recently by the Hon. Dean Wells. Present at that opening were mayor Bob Abbott, councillor Heather Melrose, representatives from the Noosa Parks Association, Noosa residents and ratepayers, the architect, Mr Mainwaring, project officer Tony Haslam and Stephanie Haslam from the Noosa Parks Association. Also attending were Dr Arthur and Mrs Marjorie Harold, Mavis Huxley—at the time we also thought of Bill Huxley, now deceased but not forgotten—and many others.

What is it that brings these environmental warriors together? It is the same thing that has brought them together for over 40 years. It is the Haslems, the Melroses, the Harolds, the Huxleys, the employees of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the SCEC people—the local community people. We also have the Spit Man, Claude Batten. These are the people who fight the good fight. They have led the battle on the Sunshine Coast. We also have the Darryl Fry's and the STOP people

who collectively have educated and led our community to stand up for what it believes in, namely, the preservation of the environment. This is not in any simplistic, tree-hugging, Looney Left sense—although we must never consider that those tree-hugging occasions are over, by any means. These people have given my community the green flora and the fauna that they enjoy today.

So what is the relevance of those people to a bill such as this or vice versa? This bill renders this State Labor government accountable and truly representing the kind of leadership we look for when it comes to the conservation of our beloved environment.

Thanks, Mr Dean Wells, to you and your committed staff and to the other community leaders such as Dr Aila Keto who provide the leadership and vision we so desperately need in a world where the environment comes a poor second time and time again. I commend the bill to the House.