



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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LAND PROTECTION [PEST AND STOCK ROUTE MANAGEMENT] BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (6.43 p.m.): I rise to speak on the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Bill and I start by acknowledging that there are not too many existing stock routes through the electorate of Kawana, but I am proud to say that my ancestry worked the land around Upper Freestone in the last century and the century before that. In fact, J. P. Dempsey was well known in that area.

The Rural Lands Protection Act 1985 has been the subject of a review that commenced in 1994. This review has highlighted the need for a more modern legislative approach to pest and stock route management. Such an approach should take advantage of the new consultative planning approaches and partnerships and provide better guidance for communities, industries and the state and local governments within Queensland. The bill proposes to achieve that desired legislative approach and replaces the Rural Lands Protection Act 1985.

The bill before us tonight provides an opportunity for partnerships in pest and stock route management and for more effective action on the issues of greatest concern across the community. Local government area plans must also take account of state, regional or catchment level natural resource management plans and those developed by neighbouring local governments.

Planning is necessary for a sustainable future. Prevention is a key principle in pest management. A policy objective is to minimise the introduction, keeping and sale of pests, and to prevent their spread, including by human activity. As we know, many weeds are extremely invasive and are spread by water, wind and animals, including birds.

I believe it was Ralph Waldo Emerson who once claimed that nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. I know that the minister is enthusiastic about his portfolio and, indeed, this bill. In fact, both sides of the House have raised many valid and interesting points.

I must comment on the new-found enthusiasm from the National Party, as it has now become obvious that the member for Southern Downs is no longer interested in leading the National Party. We see the gutter politics of the member for Callide being adopted and we will watch with interest his ongoing leadership challenge. I commend the bill to the House.
