



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MARITIME SAFETY QUEENSLAND BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (5.13 p.m.): I rise to speak to the Maritime Safety Queensland Bill and, in doing so, I would like to touch on the primary objectives of the proposed legislation, which include the reduction of the duplication in the delivery of the essential maritime services that are provided to maximise safety or limit the environmental risks; to provide a lasting solution to pilot service delivery and the training of marine pilots in Queensland ports; and to provide a whole-of-state marine pollution response capability that incorporates the marine pollution response services that are currently provided by port authorities.

The Mooloolaba-Kawana harbour is the base for pilots for those ships coming into Moreton Bay and also the drop-off point as they are leaving. The Mooloolaba Spit is the home for the pilots. Currently, the whole spit area is undergoing the formulation of a management plan that is being undertaken by the Maroochy Shire Council. I know that the minister's departmental officers are also involved in relation to various issues.

I believe that the Mooloolaba pilot station is ideally located. Many years ago the pilots were accommodated on the Mooloolaba Spit. The state government surrendered these properties and that area is now public open space and is well appreciated by the community. Queensland Transport conducts vital work from offices on the Sunshine Coast. I would like to commend the minister and the staff, whom I have found to be always very approachable and very willing to help and assist both my office and me. These workers both live and work in our community, as do the pilots who, as I mentioned, are working out of the Mooloolaba-Kawana harbour. I believe that they are doing a great job.

I also want to touch on one incident that occurred many years ago. The *Anro Asia* ran aground off Caloundra—I am not sure whether it was in the 1970s or the 1980s, but I know that it was quite a few decades ago.

Mr Shine: You were a young fellow.

Mr CUMMINS: I take the member's interjection. I was quite a young fellow—probably with long hair and a surfboard. I vividly remember that the Air Force came in and removed various containers until the *Anro Asia* could be repaired and sent on its way. Accidents do happen and over the years we have seen an incredible improvement in safety. This bill will go even further towards that. For those who are interested in the *Anro Asia*, I put in a quick plug for the aptly named Golden Beach Power Boat Club, which has a good range of photos of that ship.

In finishing, the bill also makes a large number of consequential amendments to the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act, the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act and the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994. The nature of these amendments is to establish responsibility for the matters dealt with in these acts as belonging to either Queensland Transport or MSQ. The proposed legislation will create a government monopoly for the pilotage services. As such, it is necessary to subject the draft legislation to a public benefit test. When we did this, the public benefit test found that the safety and long-term sustainability benefits of re-establishing government control for pilotage services far outweighed any benefits that could be derived from the introduction of competition for this service.

Safe and sustainable shipping movement in Queensland waters—and indeed along the Sunshine Coast—is essential to support the economy right across Queensland. The creation of Maritime Safety Queensland will enhance regional marine service delivery as well as provide better safety and environmental outcomes for the marine industry and the broader community. I believe that the Sunshine Coast, and indeed the other areas of Queensland, will benefit from the statewide approach to marine pilotage and pollution response that MSQ will provide. I commend the minister and his department for the bill. Therefore, I commend the bill to the House.