



Speech by

CARRYN SULLIVAN

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Hansard 30 April 2003

MORETON BAY MARINE PARK

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.30 p.m.): I rise to support the amendment. So that there is no misunderstanding, I will say from the outset that I am already on the public record as opposing this type of development.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN: Members opposite were here, and they have heard that. However, this parliament has established a legal process and we are bound to give all citizens the benefit of the statutes that we pass here.

For the benefit of those who do not know it, I will outline some of the history of the situation, and also outline where we are at the moment. The fish farm development application requires approval under the Marine Parks Act 1982 for the operation of a facility in a marine park, the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for operating an aquaculture facility and an aquaculture licence under the Fisheries Act 1994. The Coordinator-General declared the project significant because of the number of approvals involving not just state but also federal government agencies.

The proponents submitted the draft EIS to government on 28 January 2003. Once the Coordinator-General is satisfied that the terms of reference have been addressed, public submissions will be invited over a six-week period. I will be making sure that my constituents are aware of those deadlines. Currently, the draft EIS has not adequately addressed all the issues in the terms of reference and it could be some time before a new draft is submitted.

With the time left I will concentrate my remarks on our environmental record and some of the initiatives that this government has undertaken to protect Moreton Bay coastal waters. One issue is the management of algal blooms. Lyngbya has been the subject of a recent intensive research program focused on addressing the causes of its outbreaks. In Queensland we have established a management framework that has drawn together our best scientific skills to conduct a world-class research program.

Through the Environmental Protection Agency, the government established a Lyngbya steering committee of key stakeholders to identify causes and implement effective management actions to reduce the risk of future Lyngbya blooms. Based on the results of the initial scientific work and in collaboration with all stakeholders, management actions have been developed to start addressing the causes of these blooms.

Initial scientific investigations identified a range of land-based sources transported by surface and ground water flows into the marine environment in northern Deception Bay, and thus triggering Lyngbya blooms. The Lyngbya management strategy was developed based on initial scientific results. This scientific understanding will be further refined and integrated into management actions, including a Lyngbya section of the developing draft South-East Queensland Regional Coastal Management Plan. It is anticipated that the draft SEQ regional coastal management plan will be released for public consultation before the end of the year.

The Beattie government has also just released for public comment a consultation document on proposed changes to tighten the legislation governing the discharge of sewerage from vessels in Queensland coastal waters, which is another step forward in the protection of Moreton Bay's coastal waters. The proposed new law actually includes plans to ban the discharge of untreated and treated

sewerage in waterways such as marinas, boat harbours, rivers, creeks, canals, estuaries, the reef and other environmentally sensitive sites.

In northern Moreton Bay it is proposed that sewerage discharge would be banned within 1,000 metres of a sensitive area and 1,000 metres from the shore. A total ban on the discharge of untreated sewerage in Moreton Bay will be proposed by the year 2007. This is sensible and workable legislation, and it offers far more protection for coastal waters than ever before. It is a direct result of wide consultation over the past five years. Even the Queensland Small Craft Council says that it is a step in the right direction for a cleaner environment in Moreton Bay.

This government is not the enemy of the environment. I am proud to be part of a government that is genuinely committed to ensuring that Moreton Bay's unique values are retained for future generations. The member for Robina asked how can we on this side of the House not support the opposition's motion. I ask the Liberals why they are not supporting an amendment that places limitations on land clearing.

Mr Shine: There's none in the chamber.

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN: There are none in the House. What about the proposal by the Labor government in 1994 to ban professional fisherman from the Pumicestone Passage? That was another environmental effort. What did the Liberals—

Time expired.