



Speech by

Mr D. BRISKEY

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard 1 May 2003

LAND LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BRISKEY (Cleveland—ALP) (12.12 p.m.): Let me say how much pleasure it gives me to rise to speak in support of the Land Legislation Amendment Bill 2003. I also note that there are no members here from the Liberal Party, the National Party—

Mr Wilson: What? Still?

Mr BRISKEY: There are still no members here. There are no Independents. In fact, there are no non-government members in the House at all. It is an appalling situation.

Mr Wilson: For the last 10 minutes.

Mr BRISKEY: Yes, for the last 10 minutes. Even when they are here they are appalling. Amendments to this bill are wide ranging and will affect a diverse range of issues including native title grants—

Mr Fenlon: Mr Briskey, do you think they might have gone shopping now?

Mr BRISKEY: Well, it is Thursday. As I was about to say, amendments to this bill are wide ranging and will affect a diverse range of issues including native title grants but especially and most importantly the protection of Shelburne Bay, a unique and environmentally sensitive area in the remote north-east of Cape York Peninsula. Conservation groups enthusiastically endorsed the Premier's announcement that the Queensland government would not renew two mining leases at the magnificent white sand country of Shelburne Bay. For 25 years sandmining has threatened this extraordinary part of our natural and cultural heritage and for 25 years conservation groups and the Aboriginal traditional owners of Shelburne Bay, the Wuthathi people, have opposed sandmining proposals. By removing the threat of sandmining from the sprawling pure white sand dunes of Shelburne Bay, the Queensland government has clearly demonstrated its commitment to environmental issues.

This government also recognises that native title rights are key issues to certain areas of environmental significance in this state and changes to the legislation will reflect this as part of the Land Legislation Amendment Bill. Reports commissioned by the Queensland and Commonwealth governments to help decide the future of the region have highlighted that Shelburne Bay is one of Australia's longest standing national park proposals. Of course, Shelburne Bay is also of great cultural and heritage importance to the traditional owners of Shelburne, the Wuthathi people. The traditional owners are now involved in the management and protection of places on the site, which is of high conservation value. Protecting the environment and recognising native title rights are the keys to the future of Shelburne Bay. The legislation before the House proposes to amend five pieces of legislation which will have very positive impacts on land related issues in this state. I will not go into those because many members before me have gone into those issues. What I want to say is that the administrative improvements of these acts will benefit Queenslanders and the protection of our environmental assets. I commend the bill to the House.