



Speech by

**JEFF SEENEY**

**MEMBER FOR CALLIDE**

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### **MORETON BAY MARINE PARK**

**Mr SEENEY** (Callide—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.45 p.m.): What an incredible debate we have seen here tonight. If ever there was a motion that deserved bipartisan support in this place, it was this one. But this arrogant Beattie Labor government could not even bring itself to lend bipartisan support to this motion that would have the support of almost everybody in the Brisbane city area. Almost everybody who is represented by the people who sit on the government benches would support this motion. But for cheap, base politics this arrogant government has chosen to come in here and try to mount an argument against the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

What a pathetic attempt it was. Every member tried desperately to talk about everything else but the motion. The member for Pumicestone was so opposed to it that she could only talk about the issue for one minute. For one minute she spoke about the proposal for the fish farm. The member for Redlands did even better. He did not speak at all about the proposal to build what the member for Robina quite correctly described as a feedlot in the middle of a marine park. That is what we are talking about—a huge commercial fish farm in a marine park.

Let me pose a question: what would be the reaction of the 66 government members if I came in here with a proposal from a farmer at Biloela to build a feedlot in the middle of a national park? What would be the reaction? They would howl the proposal out of here, and quite rightly so. National parks are no place for feedlots, nor are marine parks any place for feedlots, especially not the marine park on the doorstep of the City of Brisbane.

What we should have seen here tonight was support for this motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. We should have seen that from the Minister for Environment if from nobody else. He has shown himself to be a weak Minister for Environment, a minister who is prepared to be overrun and overruled by the Minister for State Development. The Minister for Environment would not have supported any proposal to build a feedlot in a national park. He would not have stood up and talked about going through the process and examining the science if it was my proposal to build a feedlot in a national park at Biloela, and nor should he. He would have thrown that out without the slightest consideration. He would have ruled that out of contention from the very beginning, as he should have done with this proposal had he an ounce of backbone or an ounce of commitment to the environment that he professes to protect.

The Minister for State Development, Mr Barton, stood up and said that the government will eventually make a decision. 'Wink wink, nod nod; do not worry about it. We will eventually make a decision.' We know which way it will go. We know where the clout is in the government. The member for Pumicestone, the member for Redlands and the Minister for Environment will find out where the clout is. If there was any chance at all that this project was to be approved, then the arguments put forward by the Minister for State Development would have some validity, but it should never even be considered. That is the point at issue, that is the point for which we sought this parliament's support tonight, and that is the point that they have refused to support.

Aquaculture is an important issue and it has a great future in Queensland, both as land based aquaculture and ocean based aquaculture. They both have a great future in Queensland, but just as feedlotting for other domestic animals has a future in a place, so too does the type of feedlotting that constitutes aquaculture. The example of a feedlot in a national park for land based domestic animals is

one that members opposite should think long and hard about before they decide how they are going to vote on this particular motion.

The other issue that should be supported by anybody who is at all concerned about the environment of Moreton Bay is the recycled water pipeline that the member for Toowoomba South spoke about. Once again the environmental credentials of so many government backbenchers will be tested because while it is all very easy to talk about having a commitment to the environment, when it comes to putting their hands in their pockets and finding some money to make these projects happen, then they are missing in action all of the time. It is easy to talk with fine sounding rhetoric about your commitment, but they have none.

Time expired.