



Speech by

**JO-ANN MILLER**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Hansard 14 May 2003

**QUEENSLAND HERITAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.20 p.m.): I rise to support the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2003. Queensland has a rich and diverse cultural heritage. A combination of geographic, economic and political factors have contributed to a marked regionalism in Queensland. This distinct regional character is evident in our heritage places, which range from historic mining towns such as Charters Towers and Mount Morgan—in fact, my colleague Jim Pearce tells me that Mount Morgan was the place where the first high school in Queensland was established—to the sugar towns of Innisfail and Ingham and the unique elevated timber Queensland houses popular in Ipswich. Indeed, Ipswich is a heritage city and at the moment we are capitalising on that through increased tourism through our heritage tours. I take on board what the Leader of the Opposition said about the wonderful heritage buildings in Warwick, because I often pass through Warwick on the way to Stanthorpe, as I have friends living there. Certainly, the buildings in Warwick are just absolutely beautiful.

In concept and operation, the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 is land management legislation. It provides for the protection of individual places and complexes of structures and settings through the entry of places identified through the land titling system in the Heritage Register. The definition of 'place' in the act is a defined or readily identifiable area of land which may be comprised from separate titles in different ownership. This definition allows for several places comprising a precinct or area to be entered in the Heritage Register. Many places consisting of several buildings and/or other significant areas situated on land in different ownership are already included in the Heritage Register. These include a group of six apartment buildings in Julius Street at New Farm in Brisbane, many schools, hospitals, groups of religious buildings, pastoral properties, industrial complexes and landscape areas such as Captain Cook's landing place at the town of 1770 and Castle Hill in Townsville. This bill clarifies that precincts and streetscapes can be entered in the Heritage Register and aims to ensure that some of the less tangible values of these places which contribute to our sense of history and our sense of place are recognised and are appropriately managed.

In order to make it clear that precincts and streetscapes can be included in the Heritage Register, this bill adds an additional criteria for entry in the Heritage Register. It states explicitly that if part of a place does not fully satisfy criterion for entry in the Heritage Register it may be entered if it is adjacent to a registered place and exhibits the characteristics of the registered place and failure to enter the place would reduce the overall cultural heritage significance of the streetscape or the registered place. This means that not only will it be possible to enter a significant house in the Heritage Register but it will also be possible to include the associated gardens, plantings, tennis courts, driveways and outbuildings even if these items are not in the same ownership and do not meet the criterion for entry in the Heritage Register. A precinct could also comprise a group of public buildings such as a church, a municipal hall and shops and these amendments make it possible to include adjacent houses if they share and add to the characteristics of the precinct.

The Integrated Planning Act 1997, the IPA, was a considerable advantage to the heritage of Queensland for it requires that valuable features, including areas and places of cultural heritage significance, be addressed as core matters that must be coordinated and integrated with all other matters addressed by planning schemes. The IPA was the first legislation in Queensland that required local government to consider heritage values as fundamental to the preparation of planning schemes. These amendments will further assist local government and the community in protecting precincts and

streetscapes throughout Queensland. The amendments acknowledge the importance of context for heritage places and will give recognition to the diversity of such places throughout the state. I congratulate the minister and his departmental officers for all their work in the preparation of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.