



Speech by

Michael Choi

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

Hansard Wednesday, 6 October 2004

MARINE PARKS BILL

Mr CHOI (Capalaba—ALP) (5.25 p.m.): I rise in support of the Marine Parks Bill 2004. Living in the Redlands, with its close proximity to Moreton Bay, I am fully aware of the importance of the amendments contained in this bill to protect our environment. I concur with the honourable member for Redlands in relation to the importance of Moreton Bay to the constituents of my electorate and his.

This legislation creates contemporary standards for the conservation of Queensland's marine environment. It provides for the protection and maintenance of the marine environment while allowing for its ecologically sustainable use. The key words are 'sustainable use'. I understand that jobs are important. Nothing pleases me more than that we are able to create jobs for Queenslanders, but at what cost? We must not allow our marine parks to be damaged in the name of providing jobs for a few.

The Marine Parks Bill 2004 will replace the Marine Parks Act 1982. The Marine Parks Act 1982 does not reflect current knowledge, community expectation or best practice management with respect to the conservation of the marine environment. It does not provide a clear statement of purpose to guide decisions and action taken under the act. It does not adequately promote modern acceptable standards for the management of marine parks and the marine environment generally, which are based on a multiple-use, ecosystem, cooperative and participatory management approach.

The objectives of this bill will promote the conservation of the marine environment and the principle of ecologically sustainable use, which is extremely important to the people of Queensland. It will provide a balanced approach to the assessment and management of reclamation in marine parks involving early consideration of the Marine Parks Bill 2004. It is important to the people of Capalaba, and I commend this bill to the House.