



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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### FORESTRY PLANTATIONS QUEENSLAND BILL

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (5.26 pm): I rise this evening to speak briefly on the Forestry Plantations Queensland Bill 2006. The bill creates a structure and governance model for the commercial management of state owned plantation assets. A corporation sole structure, as mentioned by the shadow minister, supported by a Public Service office has been suggested as the best structure to provide reforms needed to maintain the value of these plantation assets. This structure will allow resources to be managed in accordance with existing legislation, namely, the Forestry Act 1959 and Native Title (Queensland) Act 1993.

I rise today, however, to draw attention to an intention of the bill noted by the minister in her second reading speech. The minister commendably noted that—

... state plantation forests are an important multiple use resource. In addition to underpinning very significant commercial investment, these plantations give rise to a range of other landscape, conservation, grazing, beekeeping and recreation opportunities.

The minister emphasised the following—

... nothing in the bill is intended to limit the right of people to access state plantation forests for legitimate recreational pursuits, such as horse riding. This access is, of course, subject to operational requirements and other restrictions on access when, for example, fire management and safety concerns require.

Unfortunately, it seems that the bill has not clarified the responsibilities for managing and delivering this broader suite of services. I note with interest the consultation that was conducted in relation to the bill and I note that other members—the honourable members for Warrego and Burnett—have mentioned concerns about recreational users. The explanatory notes list the following key stakeholders: eight government departments, a general trade union dot point and timber industry participants. One could say that is a brief consultation list. Recreational users of state forests did not appear in the list in the explanatory notes.

I was recently contacted by one group who would have liked to have been consulted, the Queensland Endurance Riders Association. They contacted me out of frustration saying that at the Kawana community cabinet last year Premier Beattie completely sidestepped answering their question about whether the bill would have an impact on horse riders' access. Apparently the only response the Premier could muster was muttering about a pile of paper in the corner of his office that he could not even jump over. It seems that this group has not had its questions sufficiently clarified. The group has many questions it would like answered, seeing as though it was not consulted. As it currently operates under a permit system from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, what will the privatisation of the pine plantation forests mean for it? Will it be dealing with a third-party corporate entity? How will this work in terms of access and what will be required? Will it be required to supply insurance details to gain riding access?

The riders of Queensland are dependent on safe riding access in plantation areas, especially since native areas are protected under national park tenure. They deserve to be told how these changes to the structure of the department will affect their recreational use—a matter to which sufficient time has not been given. I would like these concerns of inadequate consultation noted.