



Speech by

Robert Messenger

MEMBER FOR BURNETT

Hansard Tuesday, 14 February 2006

REVOCATION OF MARINE PARK

Mr MESSENGER (Burnett—NPA) (8.09 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in support of the government's proposed revocation of land described as lot 11, lot 31 and lot 41 on survey plan 175931. The survey plan is in the parish of Redcliffe and county of Stanley. As we have heard from other members tonight, the area is known as 'the hook' area in Scarborough. As stated by the minister, the underlying land compromises a term lease held by Redcliffe Seaside Estates. In a ministerial briefing today I was informed that approximately 6.2 hectares of land, which is tidal in nature, is being swapped for 138 hectares of beach and hinterland. That was the figure quoted to me. I heard both the minister and the member for Murrumba say that it is 125 hectares. Can that be clarified?

On top of that, the state government is receiving \$1 million to use for the visitor facilities budget. On the face of it, it would appear to be an excellent deal for the government. I probably should have asked the minister to come with me last week when I purchased my engagement ring. I would have got a good deal, or maybe a better one. It would have stopped the credit card agency ringing up asking if I had been involved in fraudulent activity.

This deal between the developer and the government has been negotiated for over five years. I note that a very quick search of the internet reveals the Redcliffe City Council's 'Grounds of submission to draft South East Queensland Regional Plan', as an appendix to the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting on 14 February 2005. It states—

The Draft SEQ Regional Plan nominates Newport Waterways as a potential Greenfield Development. However Newport Waterways has an existing approval for staged development of its land as a combination of canal frontage, and land locked allotments, with an existing approved master plan for the development.

A number of questions were posed: 'Will Newport Waterways be required to comply with the densities of 15 dwellings per hectare prescribed for new Greenfield development?' Another question was: 'Will a structure plan for Newport Waterways be required despite an existing master plan and zoning for residential development?' These and a number of other questions possibly could be answered by this government. The minister detailed in a broad fashion where the \$1 million from the developers, Redcliffe Seaside Estates, is going. It would be kind of the minister in her summation to detail more particularly as to where the money is going.

The issue of dredging was mentioned. When the developer conducts dredging of the land, where will the waste be put? Is an environmental impact management study going to be specifically conducted to look at that dredging? Who will conduct the environmental impact management study? Will it be an independent body? Will it be an independent study? Who is liable for that cost? How long is the dredging going to take? Once there is dredging one has to ask: how will this affect the wildlife in the immediate area? We have to consider biodiversity, as the member for Murrumba mentioned.

Will we lose some wildlife? Are we going to lose valuable nursery breeding grounds for prawns and aquatic animals by giving up this 6.2 hectares? The minister has answered that we certainly are not. As the tidal mangroves and tidal seagrasses are the filters of the sea and support a vast number of sea creatures from dugongs through to most of our major seabirds and their nesting areas, we have to ask: how is this going to affect the birds and wildlife in this area?

I have no problems supporting this proposal providing these issues and questions are addressed. The price of development should not come at the cost of the environment. As we know, we are the guardians of this fragile and sensitive ecosystem that we live in. The loss of a single habitat affects all of us. There is the inter-connection that the member for Murrumba talked about.

I was particularly impressed when the member for Murrumba talked about the conservation park and boardwalks at Deception Bay. One thought that springs to mind is that we do not have enough areas in our environment that disabled people and people in wheelchairs can access. Perhaps the minister and the member for Murrumba might like to give some thought to that. I support the proposal.