



Speech by

Ronan Lee

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

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MARITIME AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (4.07 pm): I am delighted to rise in the House today in support of this piece of legislation. I want to say from the outset that I am happy to rise to the challenge of the member for Chatsworth and declare very publicly that I support the minister, too; I think he is a great bloke. In fact, after listening to the contribution of the member for Chatsworth earlier today, my opinion of the member is beginning to change. He said, for instance, that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads was 'a good minister of the Crown'. I must say that my opinion of the member for Chatsworth is beginning to change. I always used to think he was a bit of a goose, but I am changing my mind after listening to him today.

I strongly support the Marine and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006. I want to speak briefly about those amendments to the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 that are going to enhance marine safety and help prevent marine incidents and especially manage unseaworthy, abandoned and derelict ships in Queensland waters. I know firsthand the importance of making sure that a maritime vessel is well maintained and totally seaworthy before getting into it. I think I may have mentioned in the House previously the time I went for a kayak up Oxley Creek in my electorate. I jumped into a kayak that had been maintained by the Queensland Canoeing Club. Unbeknownst to me I picked the wrong boat and jumped in one that they had not quite finished maintaining. It sprung a leak about a kilometre up Oxley Creek. I must say that coming down the creek on the way back was not the most pleasant of experiences.

The Indooroopilly Canoe Club in my electorate does not have this sort of problem. Just over a year ago it launched a range of new beginners kayaks funded by the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. I was thrilled to launch those boats at the Canoe Club at Indooroopilly. I also want to make special mention of Sallyanne Gardner for the great work she does with the Indooroopilly Canoe Club. The last time I spoke to Sallyanne was when we were both participating in Clean Up Australia Day. She had organised the Indooroopilly Canoe Club clean-up and I had been involved with the Pamphlett Sea Scouts in Graceville.

When talking about marine safety, I think it is also appropriate to acknowledge the wonderful marine safety skills that children learn at school when they participate in water based activities like kayaking. Kevin Crisp, a teacher at Nudgee Junior College in Indooroopilly, has a wonderful record of educating young boys in particular about how to kayak. The students from Nudgee Junior College did a great job. I want to congratulate Macauley Stafford-Smith, John-Thomas Humphreys, Tom McLaughlin, Stephen Giraud, Malachy Maher, Jordon Bourke and Jonathon Deans, who were all selected as part of the Queensland team to race in the national canoe and kayak championships in Sydney. All of the boys were competitive throughout the championships and Queensland showed genuine tremendous strength and depth in the junior ranks. Macca Stafford-Smith and John-Thomas Humphreys were our standouts. Between them they won five national medals and in total the boys from Nudgee Junior in the electorate of Indooroopilly won 10 medals—one of the best results ever. A past student from Nudgee Junior, Tim Donkin, was selected for the Australian junior spring kayak team to race in Europe at the World Cup later this year. That is a genuinely wonderful achievement for them. It is something that not just the boys, their parents and school should be proud of, but Kevin in particular does a wonderful job.

I want to make special mention of a couple of comments the member for Chatsworth made. He talked a great deal about transport infrastructure. It is pertinent that he said that Labor does not seem to

want to spend money on transport infrastructure. This came just one day after the federal government shamelessly did not fund road infrastructure in Queensland in the federal budget. Frankly, he would have to be on cloud nine on a day like today to suggest that Labor is not putting the appropriate amount of money into transport infrastructure in Queensland. I will talk immediately about the work that we are doing in my electorate with things like the Indooroopilly Railway Station. Huge amounts of TransLink money has been ploughed into the south-east corner.

I notice, too, that the green bridge in St Lucia, which my council Labor colleagues championed, is close to completion. I note the strong opposition to the green bridge, the public transport bridge, that was led by members of the political party of the member for Chatsworth. I must say that I am a bit of a green bridge convert. I have come around to the view that it is going to be a great result for the community. I think the transport outcomes are going to be stunning. I think it is going to take large numbers of cars from the electorate of Chatsworth that currently travel up Coronation Drive to come down Sir Fred Schonell Drive or even Hawken Drive, clogging up the roads in my electorate. It is going to mean that people from the electorate of Chatsworth can get to the University of Queensland a whole lot quicker and cause a lot less disturbance to the good folk of my electorate.

When mentioning transport infrastructure and infrastructure in general it is also worth thinking about the shameless underfunding of education infrastructure that occurred for many years under consistent Liberal and National governments in this state.

I want to briefly mention the Hale Street bridge that has been raised in debate today. There has been a lot of talk about a tunnel being turned into a bridge being turned into a funnel to funnel people onto a road link where they will have to pay a toll. I want to put on the record today that if there is any change to the road network—and I am talking in particular about the proposals I heard about to close the access from Coronation Drive to the Grey Street bridge so that constituents and people in my electorate and the western suburbs of Brisbane are funnelled onto a toll bridge on Hale Street—I will fight it tooth and nail in this place and in the community.

Ms Liddy Clark interjected.

Mr LEE: I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. The proposal would isolate the wonderful new Gallery of Modern Art. If there is any funnelling of residents from my electorate onto a toll bridge I will fight it tooth and nail in this place and in the community. They are not going to rip money out of the pockets of my constituents to pay for something that has not been appropriately budgeted for by the member for Chatsworth's colleagues in the Brisbane City Council.

I want to make what I think is a very positive suggestion. I think it should be raised. The Coronation Drive bikeway, which large numbers of my constituents use every day to commute to work and for recreation purposes, is becoming increasingly congested. It is part of the success of the bikeway that it is now so congested. The last time I was riding on it it was genuinely congested with bicycles and pedestrians.

Given significant work is about to be undertaken in the vicinity of the Coronation Drive bikeway, now is the time to duplicate the Coronation Drive bikeway. There is talk about spending money on Hale Street, so why do we not duplicate the Coronation Drive bikeway at the same time? That is a genuine transport infrastructure challenge for the lord mayor and for those in the Liberal Party who like to come in here and be particularly pious about infrastructure spending.

Why do they not acknowledge that the way of the future in inner-city Brisbane is encouraging people to use public transport, to walk to work and to ride their bicycles to work and provide them with the appropriate means of doing that? A great way to do that would be by duplicating the Coronation Drive bikeway. I am absolutely delighted to support this piece of legislation here today. I echo the comments that were made by the honourable member for Chatsworth earlier today: the minister for transport is a good minister of the Crown.