



Speech by

**Vicky Darling**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

Hansard Wednesday, 1 November 2006

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## **MARINE PARKS (GREAT SANDY) ZONING PLAN: DISALLOWANCE OF STATUTORY INSTRUMENT**

**Ms DARING** (Sandgate—ALP) (8.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2006. The zoning of the Great Sandy Marine Park incorporated information gained from 1,091 public responses and seven public meetings attended by over 1,300 participants to minimise any potential social impacts associated with the introduction of a zoning plan in the region. The final zoning plan was developed to ensure ongoing access for a wide range of activities within the Great Sandy Marine Park. The types of zones and their location were selected based on negotiations with all interested parties to minimise the impacts on their particular sectors while at the same time retaining the principle of overall conservation and reasonable use within the area.

The government has listened carefully and consulted. The resulting plan strikes an excellent balance. After all, everyone is seeking the same outcome. Individuals may differ in their opinion on access to particular areas of the marine park, but they all want the same thing for this special marine area and that is the ability to preserve its natural beauty and ensure a sustainable fish stock while supporting marine based industry.

One of the common reasons that anglers gave for not fishing more often is the amount of confusing legislation stating where they can and cannot fish. The zoning plan helps simplify what anglers need to be aware of before they go fishing. The zoning plan further reduces complexity by incorporating the Woongarra and Hervey Bay marine parks into the Great Sandy Marine Park.

The Great Sandy Marine Park uses zoning definitions and colours that are consistent with the larger Commonwealth managed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and state managed coastal marine park, which stretches from the northern boundary of the Great Sandy Marine Park to the tip of Cape York.

This consistency will make it a lot easier for visiting anglers who in the past needed to be aware of a range of zoning provisions. We want to welcome and encourage recreational anglers who travel the Queensland coastlines visiting towns and sampling the local fishing attractions. Those recreational anglers in turn support the regional economies of coastal communities. Not only is recreational fishing a great Australian pastime; it is also a growing tourism drawcard.

The zones will both maintain and enhance the marine environment, which will secure ongoing social and economic benefits that will flow into the Wide Bay, Burnett and Queensland economies. The marine park has the potential to increase the number of people visiting the region, further stimulating the visitor numbers that already measure approximately one million people each year. The zoning will ensure that any increase in population is sustainable.

Given that only four per cent of the Great Sandy Marine Park constitutes complete no-take zones, anglers are not significantly restricted in accessing areas in the marine park. By implementing the Great Sandy Marine Park, the government has delivered an insurance policy that will ensure sustainable social and economic benefits for current and future generations. It ensures that successive generations of anglers and other users will benefit from this treasured natural asset. I oppose the motion.