



Speech by

**Rachel Nolan**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

Hansard Thursday, 24 May 2007

---

## QUEENSLAND EMBLEMS

**Ms NOLAN** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.30 pm): In March 2006 I informed the House of Raceview State School's campaign to have Queensland adopt the fossil of the Muttaborrasaurus as our state's fossil emblem. Tonight I want to inform members of the campaign's progress and call on the government to act quickly to ensure that these great kids' fervent desire is realised.

The Raceview campaign started in 2005 when, as part of Children's Book Week, school librarian Mark Prouatt read the then year 4 students a book called *Gogo Fish! The Story of the Western Australian State Fossil Emblem*. The kids were so rapt that they decided Queensland too should have a fossil emblem and that the Muttaborrasaurus was the fossil of choice. They wrote to the then Acting Premier, Anna Bligh, who commended them for their forward thinking and community focused attitude. She and the government suggested that they go out and get some community support and then the government would have a good look at the idea. Tonight I want to tell the House about the community support these kids have managed to achieve.

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland has again commended these children and said that the society supports this project and commends their initiative in getting it going. Current education minister Rod Welford commended the Raceview students for their pride in our state. Ian Galloway from the Queensland Museum said it was a wonderful suggestion that Queensland have a state fossil emblem.

The Mayor of Ipswich, Paul Pisasale, said that this was an excellent initiative and he congratulated the group and the school. Ian Sobey of the Fossil Collectors Association of Australasia said that the choice of a fossil emblem can only help to showcase the great diversity of fossil heritage that is locked in the geological record of this state. The Mayor of Charters Towers, where the Muttaborrasaurus fossil was found, said that this was an imaginative idea which would appeal to the many interstate and international visitors to the centre and our continent and would greatly add to our tourism image. The kids have been in the *Ipswich Advertiser* and the *Ipswich News*.

I think this answers the Deputy Premier's call. In addition to that widespread community support, every class at Raceview State School wrote a letter of support for this initiative, and all of the kids in the school—from classes 5C, 4B, 2C-D, 6B, 1E, 5B, 2B and many others—coloured in their fossil booklets when they wrote to the state government asking for this fossil emblem. I will table all of those documents this evening so that all members can see that this is a great initiative. I call on the government to immediately establish the Muttaborrasaurus as the Queensland state fossil emblem.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents relating to support for a State fossil emblem for Queensland.