



Speech by

**Ronan Lee**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

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## **CAPE YORK PENINSULA HERITAGE BILL**

**Mr LEE** (Indooroopilly—ALP) (3.32 pm): I am delighted to rise in the House today in support of the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Bill. My intention is to be quite brief in my contribution. I think most members would know my views on issues in relation to the cape and also wild rivers. Cape York is obviously one of the last great wild places on earth, and I am delighted that this piece of legislation will be passed by the parliament today. I am very keen to support this bill, which is about sustainability for Cape York and which provides benefits for all key stakeholders on the peninsula.

Indigenous communities will have their joint management of national parks enshrined. It will allow for sustainable development on Aboriginal land with appropriate scientific and economic assessments undertaken. It also protects native title rights in wild rivers areas. For the pastoral industry, there are also rewards for those who choose to be sensible in their stewardship of land that has World Heritage values in this part of the world.

Importantly, this is a bill that I think will take us one step closer to seeing Cape York achieve the World Heritage listing that it so clearly deserves. I am delighted today to support this bill, because it opens the door and allows us to declare wild rivers in the cape.