



Speech by

Ronan Lee

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

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QUEENSLAND HERITAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (2.54 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2007. I applaud the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation and also the Environmental Protection Agency for undertaking such a far-reaching reform of the Queensland Heritage Act. It is not hard to see why it is that the Liberals and the Nationals do not get on when we sit in the parliament and listen to presentations such as that which we received from the Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Moggill. He addressed the parliament and for the best part of 20 minutes he absolutely, completely and utterly denounced the Queensland National Party's record on heritage issues. He was scathing in his criticism of the Queensland National Party on heritage issues. There have not been many occasions when I have listened to the member for Moggill and thought, 'He has really nailed it this time.' But his criticism of the Queensland Nationals was spot on. Their record in this state on heritage matters is abysmal and is appalling and we should never forget exactly how bad it was when the National Party was running this state.

In the interests of fairness, it would only be appropriate for me, having praised the member for Moggill, to offer some critique of his speech to this parliament. I did want to set the record straight in relation to a matter on which he was clearly very confused and that was his comments about Little Goat Island. I would refer all honourable members to a speech delivered in this place by the member for Pumicestone on Tuesday, 29 November 2005 in which she very clearly set forth exactly what was going on involving the National Trust and also Little Goat Island. Let me put this on the parliamentary record.

The vast majority—I am told well over 90 per cent of Little Goat Island—is clearly protected and will not be developed by the rapacious developers that the member for Moggill seemed to think were going to arrive there. The other portion of Little Goat Island which was that small portion that was owned independently by the National Trust is also, I understand, in very good hands. It is zoned residential A. There is going to be a house built upon it. I am very confident that Little Goat Island is in great hands in terms of protection of its heritage values and in terms of protection of its natural and environmental values. I would encourage the member for Moggill to fully educate himself and appraise himself of all of the issues associated with Little Goat Island. Frankly, it would be wise of him not to take on board some of the mischief that has been spread around the place by some of his party colleagues from that part of Brisbane. Far be it for me to suggest that they may have some financial or other interest in seeing particular things happen on Little Goat Island. The member for Moggill is completely wrong in suggesting that the state government was anything other than sensible in its dealings there.

Queensland's rich and varied cultural heritage combination of geographic, economic and political factors has contributed to a marked regionalism in Queensland. This distinct regional character is evident in our heritage places ranging from historic mining towns like Charters Towers and Mount Morgan to the sugar towns of Mackay and Innisfail. They are typified by our unique elevated tropical timber and corrugated iron roofed Queenslander houses. Queensland is undergoing unprecedented growth fuelled by the mining sector and by population migration. The Queensland government is planning to provide for

and manage this growth through its infrastructure planning, main roads planning, affordable housing initiatives and a review of the Integrated Planning Act 1997. This bill is a critical part of this future planning. The bill will ensure that the development of the state is not at the detriment of the heritage places that characterise our state. While we plan for growth, we must preserve the special character that sets Queensland apart from other parts of Australia.

In closing, I put on record my very grave concern for the condition of Keating House on Westminster Street, Indooroopilly. It is a delightful example of some of the great architecture that existed in the western suburbs of Brisbane when that area was first settled. Keating House, which I think has seen better days, members may know as that old building that is diagonally opposite the Indooroopilly Railway Station. I am told one of the fascinating features of the house is the fact that the original stables are still standing on the site. I believe that it is a building with some value and in need of protection, but I must say in need of urgent repair. I support the legislation.