



Speech by

Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Thursday, 20 May 2010

CURRIMUNDI CREEK, BANK STABILISATION

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (10.15 pm): I rise this evening in relation to three bank stabilisation projects in the Currimundi Creek south arm to save three mature red bloodwood trees. The three red bloodwood trees are indigenous to Currimundi and are considered as icons of nature in an area where urbanisation is rapidly stripping away the natural environment. They provide the essential tall canopy, are an annual nesting site for birds and give shade to the path and waterways, and local residents value them highly as beautiful and irreplaceable old-growth trees. Unless a solid supportive bank stabilisation strategy is installed to strengthen the bank and retain the existing trees, these trees will fall into the creek and the local community will lose these three local icons that they strongly identify with.

The Currimundi Catchment Care Group is an active group of local residents formed in 2001 with the aims of limiting erosion, improving water quality and improving the environment of Currimundi lakes, creeks and canals. The Currimundi Catchment Care Group has worked with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council with respect to these particular bloodwood trees for many years now, especially in relation to the detrimental impact the bank erosion has had on their sustainability.

In November 2009 the Sunshine Coast Regional Council completed a study of bank erosion in Lake Currimundi and its creeks titled *Currimundi Lake risk based shoreline erosion assessment*. This study identified the banks around the three bloodwood trees as highly at risk of loss and listed these sites as a high priority for remedial stabilisation works. Several stabilisation strategies were considered, ranging from coir log walls to rock walls. Council allocated \$40,000 to undertake rock-walling as a bank stabilisation strategy, to strengthen the banks around the trees and support the tree roots.

The installation of the rock walls is subject to approval by none other than the Department of Environment and Resource Management and was due to commence in March, earlier this year. On 11 March 2010 council officers met with departmental officers who advised that the department does not support the rock-walling of banks near the trees and required further information to convince the department of the necessity prior to giving approval to undertake the rock-walling of the bloodwood trees. I lay upon the table of the House some copies of photographs.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs of trees [\[2285\]](#).

I cannot see that the department of environment will need any more proof of why these rock walls are required for these trees. It is all to do with stabilisation.

If the department does not give its approval to these projects then the funds will be redirected towards other projects, the trees will be lost, there will be further loss of the creek bank through erosion and the riparian zones will become narrower. I will hold this government accountable for the loss of those trees and so will the residents. Residents are demanding that those trees be saved and the banks be stabilised against further erosion and native wildlife be protected.

Time is running out to save these local icons. On behalf of the members of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and the residents surrounding Lake Currimundi, I urge the acting minister and her department to urgently consider these projects to deliver a positive outcome in the interests of the environment and the retention of significant green infrastructure for future generations to enjoy.

(Time expired)