




Speech by

Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 29 May 2012

MOTION: MUNGKAN KANDJU NATIONAL PARK

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.41 pm): The House has just been treated to a somewhat distorted history lesson from members of the Australian Labor Party who have nothing to offer but urban myths, nonsense and their distorted recollections of the past. The debate before the House tonight would be shameful in its inaccuracies. We are not going to try to correct all of those inaccuracies that the Labor members have put forward in moving this motion tonight. It serves to illustrate the extent to which they have nothing to offer the people of Queensland but this pining for the past, this reinforcement of the urban myths that the old socialists tell each other as they sit around remembering their glory days, and they inculcate their younger generation with these tales of a time back in 1977.

In 1977 I think I was two years out of school. I am probably one of the senior members of this place but back then I was two years out of school. There were a lot of things from that time and that generation that can be seen differently from today's perspective, but that is where the Labor Party are—content with their urban myths, with their self-delusional stories of the bogeymen of the past, to somehow justify their existence today. I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'acknowledges' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- 'that this is National Reconciliation week, and in that spirit the Government intends to further develop and strengthen relationships with Indigenous people, including through actions such as the return of this freehold land;
- Endorses the Premier's apology delivered last week to the Wik Mungkan people for what they have been through;
- Recognises Premier Campbell Newman and his government's commitment to provide opportunities to Indigenous people of Queensland, including real jobs and training; supporting home ownership and business opportunities; and
- Notes the LNP's election commitment to a joint approach to conservation in partnership with traditional owners and that Gerhardt Pearson and other Indigenous leaders have endorsed the LNP's plans to introduce a Bioregion Management Plan to replace the former Labor Governments misguided wild rivers declarations on Cape York.'

The amended motion now reads—

That this House:

- Recognises the handing back of Mungkan Kandju National Park to its traditional owners (the Wik Mungkan, Southern Kaanju and Ayapathu People).
- Welcomes the transfer of an additional 75,074 hectares of freehold land previously revoked from the Archer Bend section of the park to the Oyala Thumotang Land Trust.
- Acknowledges that this is National Reconciliation week, and in that spirit the Government intends to further develop and strengthen relationships with Indigenous people, including through actions such as the return of this freehold land;
- Endorses the Premier's apology delivered last week to the Wik Mungkan people for what they have been through;

- Recognises Premier Campbell Newman and his government's commitment to provide opportunities to Indigenous people of Queensland, including real jobs and training; supporting home ownership and business opportunities; and
- Notes the LNP's election commitment to a joint approach to conservation in partnership with traditional owners and that Gerhardt Pearson and other Indigenous leaders have endorsed the LNP's plans to introduce a Bioregion Management Plan to replace the former Labor Governments misguided wild rivers declarations on Cape York.

I want to start with the last point of the amendment. Anyone who has followed the proceedings of this House knows how outrageous the whole issue of wild rivers has become in Queensland politics. Election after election we saw commitments made to the Greens political party about preferences. In fact for one election they actually had the numbers. They did the deal—three seats here and 14 seats there; preferences here and preferences there. Do members know what the currency was that paid for the deal? Wild rivers declarations. We came back into this House immediately following that election and the first piece of legislation was to pay the piper—to pay the Greens political party for their support. That was the only reason the member for Mount Coot-tha was re-elected. That was the only reason he was back here. The only reason that the then Treasurer was able to inflict his longstanding damage on the people of Queensland was that they were prepared to use the people of Cape York as currency. They were prepared to use the future of Aboriginal communities in Cape York, the future of Aboriginal kids, as currency in their political deals. That is the shameful record of the people who come in here and want to talk to us about their distorted recollections of a previous coalition government.

The motion before the House we will support in its amended form, because it is a recognition of the modern day rather than the way things were 35-odd years ago. It reflects no credit on those who moved the original motion in the House tonight, given the extent to which they have sold out the people of Cape York, given the extent to which they have been prepared to trade away the future of the people on Cape York. We will right that wrong just as we are about righting so many other wrongs that the previous government has visited on the people of Queensland.

(Time expired)