




Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Tuesday, 27 November 2012

GOLD COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.10 pm): I rise to make a small contribution to the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2012. I congratulate the minister for moving quickly to form the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. As far as the people of the Gold Coast and the people in the state seat of Coomera are concerned, it was the most important change needed. For as long as I have been a member of this House, and even before I became the member for Coomera, the people of the Coomera electorate, particularly those in businesses, were telling me that something had to be done about the waterways on the Gold Coast to create economic benefit for the Gold Coast.

Over the first 12 months that I was in office we saw something like 1,200 people lose their jobs in the Coomera precinct. Why? We can blame it on all sorts of things, but one of the reasons was that we could not get bigger boats up the Coomera River to be able to do work on them in the workshops in the Coomera marine precinct. I congratulate Gary Baildon on his appointment. What an excellent choice Gary Baildon is.

Mr Molhoek: Hear, hear!

Mr CRANDON: I take the interjection from the member for Southport. He will be the chair of this authority. The Gold Coast Broadwater has certainly been a passion of his. The locals who will come on board will also have a background and good knowledge of the local area.

I mention the importance of the Broadwater for the economic development of the Coomera electorate, in particular the marine precinct. The Coomera marine precinct is the biggest marine precinct of its kind in Australia, and perhaps the southern hemisphere. We can add to that the fact that we have one of the very few TAFE colleges that teaches marine studies in the Coomera marine precinct. We also have Horizon Shores a little further north. Once again, that is a very large marine precinct. I have had cause to visit Horizon Shores in recent times and have a look through the marina. I came to realise how many small businesses there are in the Horizon Shores area.

The Coomera marine precinct is set to grow with the addition of a huge development. There will be something in the order of \$400 million in investment. Those sorts of developments and those sorts of businesses need to know that they can travel through the Broadwater and they can bring super yachts in for repair. The owners of those super yachts spend millions and millions of dollars.

We have the iconic Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show coming up in May next year. It is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Members should be sure to come along to the 25th anniversary of the boat show.

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Yes, and for the second time we have just had the very successful boat show in the Coomera marine area. It was an expo. There were something like 2½ kilometres of walkways through many boat exhibitions and so forth. I was host on the afternoon of the first day to a Chinese delegation that

had come to Queensland. The Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games was pleased to open that boat show just a few weeks ago. It really was a fabulous event.

How far is the furthest point from the Broadwater to the M1? Let me tell members. Dreamworld is the iconic playground for many people from South-East Queensland, from the rest of Queensland and from Australia. People have enjoyed so many different events at Dreamworld. Dreamworld is so close to the Broadwater that the catchcry for one of the rides is: 'You can see the ocean if you open your eyes.' That is how high the rides go. You can see the ocean if you are game to open your eyes.

Let me talk about another exciting adventure that the minister responsible for the legislation was involved with. He came down to make a small announcement. We took him off to Dreamworld. We had our colleagues the member for Albert and the member for Broadwater with us as well. We went on the BuzzSaw to experience it. I have to tell members that I do not believe any of us had our eyes open to see whether or not the ocean could be seen from the BuzzSaw. It was a scary ride. In fact, one of us screamed like a girl.

Miss Barton interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I am not going to say who it was. I am not going to dob anybody in. I will say it was not the minister because he will punish me later if I suggest it was him. You can see the ocean if you can open your eyes on that ride.

That brings me to another important issue concerning tourism on the Gold Coast and the attraction of the Broadwater. The newest Dreamworld experience is not in fact at Dreamworld. It is at Q1 at Surfers Paradise. Last Monday morning at 7.30 I had the pleasure of going for a climb at SkyPoint Climb. Imagine going to the top of Q1 on the Gold Coast—the tallest residential building in Australia—then going outside the building and then going up quite a few metres more. You are then about 280 metres off the ground.

Members might ask what this has to do with the Broadwater and the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. Guess what? From there one can see all the waterways on the Gold Coast from as far north as Horizon Shores all the way down to Burleigh Heads and beyond to the border. I encourage all members to climb the SkyPoint Climb. We might even do a fundraiser next year. We could abseil off Q1 from the SkyPoint Climb. Why not try and do something like that? We could do a fundraiser for one of the organisations that we are so involved with.

I am proud to announce that SkyPoint Climb won the Queensland Tourism Awards category for new tourism development at a prestigious ceremony in Brisbane last Friday night. I had the pleasure a couple of days later to actually do that climb. I can tell members that it is well worth the effort. I encourage all members to go down to Q1 and do the climb. Whilst members are down there they should have a bit of a look around. They should make sure on the way back that they call into Dreamworld and ride the BuzzSaw and the tower to see whether they can see the ocean. They can see whether they are game to open their eyes. What was I going to mention next?

Mr Dempsey: The weather.

Mr CRANDON: We will not talk about the weather. It was absolutely wonderful weather on Monday morning. Thank you for bringing that to my attention, Minister. It was beautiful weather. We saw the storm clouds rolling in as we were going up. There were beautiful breezes as well.

But the important thing for us to remember is that there are 300 kilometres of canals alone on the Gold Coast—300 kilometres! It would take a long time to travel just the canals—forget about the rest of the Broadwater, forget about the rest of the waterways. So how important is it to have a Gold Coast Waterways Authority? It is absolutely imperative. I just want to reiterate the importance of it. Once again I congratulate the minister on the bill and I congratulate the committee on the effort that they put in in developing their report to assist in the completion of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.