




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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QUEENSLAND HERITAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (8.21 pm): I rise to support the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank and congratulate the minister, the Hon. Andrew Powell, for bringing this bill before the House. I also congratulate the chairman of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee, the member for Warrego, the honourable Howard Hobbs, who has done a lot of work in this House over many years. It will be really sad to see him go.

Mr Johnson: Is he heritage listed?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the member for Gregory. I am not sure that he is heritage listed, but at some stage we will all in future remember the member for Warrego in the way that he should be remembered—as an absolute gentleman and stalwart of this great House—and I have been very pleased to be his colleague in this House.

These reforms confirm our government's commitment to rejuvenate the Queensland Heritage Act 1992—an act which was introduced into Queensland with bipartisan support. These reforms establish the state's framework for conserving our historic heritage places while also ensuring these important places are well managed in the future. Many members in this House may not realise, but the electorate of Nanango's namesake town—Nanango—is the fourth oldest town in Queensland, so I am very proud to have numerous heritage examples scattered throughout my electorate. There are 56 heritage listed places throughout the South Burnett, Somerset and the northern Toowoomba regional areas. They include Taromeo Homestead and cemetery near Blackbutt which was devastated by the 2011 floods and it was through a heritage grant that that historic cemetery was rebuilt, and it was just wonderful to see that. There is also Argyle Homestead near Geham, and tonight it is pertinent for me to say to the House that I am thinking about my constituents around Geham and Ravensbourne who are currently being threatened by fire right at this minute. There is also the historic Taabinga Homestead near Kingaroy, obviously Cressbrook Station in the Somerset, the Kingaroy Butter Factory and the old Kingaroy Shire Council Chambers are other great examples. The owners of these places are passionate about conserving them for future generations and I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for taking on this responsibility and being caretakers of our history and our heritage for our future generations.

I know that the introduction of our government's Everyone's Environment protection grants was very popular with the heritage place owners who need financial support to complete important renovation and conservation projects. This year I was pleased to announce that two of our places received funding—both Inverness at Toogoolawah and Castleholme Homestead near Esk. Both are beautiful examples of the pioneer heritage of that wonderful Somerset region. Sarah Stevenson, one of the co-owners of Inverness, told us that the heritage grant was a fantastic help and would help them achieve a major project which would ensure Inverness is preserved for the benefit of the heritage of that Somerset region. At Conroy's farm, which is part of Castleholme Homestead near Esk, the owners used the just over \$8,000 grant to fund the restoration of the roofing, gutters and downpipes of the property to prevent any damage occurring to the building's foundation from storm

run-off—another project which will ensure the longevity of our state's great heritage. With those few words, I again congratulate the minister and the committee for considering this bill. I commend the bill to the House.