




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 25 November 2014

RECREATION AREAS MANAGEMENT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.52 pm): I echo the words of the member for Kallangur: it is on days such as today that I love to be a member of this House. In actual fact, I love each and every single day that I have the great honour to be the member for Nanango. We have a wonderful opportunity to be part of the Newman LNP government and that is so important because we have ministers such as the Hon. Steve Dickson who has introduced this common-sense legislation. We have also just heard the Minister for Tourism speak. We have two common-sense ministers sitting in the House, supporting the development of national parks, recreation and tourism—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the Attorney-General: we have a common-sense Attorney-General. We also have the Hon. Glen Elmes, the minister responsible for Indigenous affairs. It is just fantastic.

I will get to the point: this is a common-sense bill. I was keen to speak today because when I was the assistant minister for regulatory reform one of the first meetings I held—and the minister knows this story quite well—was with a group of photographers who told me about the number of permits that they needed for all the different national parks and recreation areas across the state. It was very complicated because you needed one permit to take a photo of a wedding group and you needed a different permit to take a photo of a group of schoolchildren. Naturally, you needed a different permit again to do a feature film, and I can understand that one. Different areas around the state required different forms. Since that day I worked with the minister, who fixed the problem quite soon thereafter.

This bill is an extension of that type of issue. It stems from years and years of built-up regulation. When legislation comes before the House, quite often its impacts on the end user are not considered or realised. The legislation that is before the House today cuts back on all of that. In particular, it allows tourism businesses to operate tours across marine national parks and recreation areas. Now, tourism operators will be able to apply for a single permit. That might sound really simple and some may have trouble extending upon that. For smaller operators—and I should not limit my comments to smaller operators—every minute of time spent filling in permit forms means money. They could be doing something else. They could be working on their businesses. Importantly for this World Heritage area, it would be more pertinent for them to work on their businesses by promoting that amazing resource that we have in our great state of Queensland.

I am really pleased that we have been able to get this to a single form and a single application fee. I congratulate the minister and his department on that. It means that a person has to fill in only one form and that there is consistency on that one form across different areas. To me, this is absolute common sense.

I want to touch on the part of the legislation that refers to low-impact activities. Picking up on the example of the photographers, if I was organising a wedding I would not need a permit to enter a

recreation area. Under the legislation, what I was doing would be considered a low-impact activity. That is quite a good example, because in this great state we are fortunate in the national parks and recreation areas that we have.

I also want to touch on something just mentioned by the Minister for Tourism, the Hon. Jann Stuckey, relating to the visitors who came to our great state for the G20. I was very fortunate to be the assistant minister to the Premier for the G20. It enabled me to spend some time in the international media centre, where I had the wonderful opportunity of talking to delegates from all around the world, as I know the minister did. It really was wonderful to showcase our state and the Great Barrier Reef and to explain the fantastic work that our government is doing to promote and protect that amazing resource. The bill adds to those sorts of things. Enjoying a great weekend at the G20 were visitors from all over the world. There were delegates and international media. I think we had around 7,668 visitors. They all received an information pack about our wonderful tourism areas and all of the natural resources that we have in this state. A lot of those people want to come back and visit at a later time and that information will help tourism businesses.

Mrs Stuckey: Some of them stayed on, unintended.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection of the honourable Minister for Tourism. They did stay on. After seeing what went on here and being able to look at the documentation and wonderful images that the tourism department had incorporated to promote this great state, people decided to stay on here and changed their flights home. How wonderful is that? We cannot get a bigger tick than that—that is, having visitors who come for a conference deciding to stay on. It was spontaneous. It was lovely to hear some of those stories. I know that our marine parks featured heavily in their onward journeys.

I would like to think that a few of them decided to make the trip out to the great electorate of Nanango. I did try to encourage them to do so. We have some wonderful national parks in my electorate. We have Bunya Mountains which is absolutely beautiful.

This is a great opportunity to speak about one other point. At the moment it is extremely hot west of Brisbane. It is hot in Brisbane as well. In my electorate over the last couple of weeks we have seen the driest weather we have seen for many years. The temperatures are unseasonably high. I would encourage people to take a trip up to Bunya Mountains. The temperature completely drops up there. You feel like you are on holidays. It really only costs the fuel to get up there. People should go for a walk through the national park. It is absolutely beautiful. The temperature is a lot cooler. I would encourage anyone in this House or listening to me to take a trip up to Bunya Mountains.

Mr Bleijie: Or you could come to the Sunshine Coast where it is always good weather.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I encourage people to take that trip. The other wonderful part of the world—and the Attorney-General would know about this—is Jimna State Forest, which has the beautiful Peach Trees camping ground. I was very pleased after the last state budget to be able to announce the upgrading of the toilets at the Peach Trees camping ground. That was much needed for that beautiful part of the world. It is above Kilcoy. It is a beautiful drive up there. The electorate of Nanango is a beautiful part of the world.

The tourism businesses that operate tours across marine parks, national parks and recreational areas will all benefit from this legislation. I again congratulate the minister. Thank you for bringing this common-sense bill before the House. I support the passage of this bill.