



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**


**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2014

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Coomera Electorate, Cane Lands Development**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.27 am): I rise to discuss a matter of serious public interest in the northern Gold Coast area—the cane lands, in fact—in the seat of Coomera. Since 2009 I have been calling for a future plan for the local area; a plan to allow the area to transition from agriculture to other purposes. There have been some issues around the South East Queensland Regional Plan, which is being reviewed in 2015 and should open the door for a better plan to be put in place. Over the years since 2009 I have discussed this many, many times with many people. There have been many reports over that time. In fact, there have been 17 reports since 1979; 13 of those reports have been done since 1999. So there have been 13 reports in 15 years on the northern Gold Coast and the cane lands area, all to no avail. I table that list of reports for members. They may want to call them up on the internet and read some of them.

*Tabled paper:* List of land-use studies conducted in Rocky Point Canelands [\[6234\]](#).

In short, the goal of developing a plan for the cane lands, as elusive as it has been in the past, appeared to be getting closer in recent times through discussions that I have been having with locals, some councillors and with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. Indeed, we were all very enthused by the apparent agreement by all parties. Who do I mean when I say all parties? I mean virtually all of the parties who are a part of the cane lands community and who are now coming together and saying that they realise that there is a need for a future plan for that area. We seemed to have the Gold Coast City Council on board as well.

The investigation that we are calling for should not have any limitations put upon it. It is important that there should be no limitations, as has happened in the past, which would mean that we look only at this or that aspect of the cane lands. It is a hugely complex area and a hugely complex decision needs to be made. Once those limitations are removed from the study, we can look at a plan for the next five, 10, 15 to 20 years so that we will know where the cane lands are going. As I said earlier, much discussion has been had and reports have been produced. Therefore, yesterday I was surprised to read a 2½-page letter from Dale Dickson, the CEO of the Gold Coast City Council, to the people of the cane lands, in which he states—

Consideration of potential and continuing future agricultural uses of land as part of a Resource and Agricultural Land Study which will investigate these types of land uses throughout the City and which is due to commence in late 2014-15.

The Northern Gold Coast Agricultural Futures Study is currently being undertaken by the Economic Development and Major Projects directorate on the 11,000ha northern canelands area. This study will include input from a specialist agricultural economist to further study the viability of a range of agricultural and other products that could be grown in the area ...

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 3 October 2014, from Mr Dale Dixon, Chief Executive Officer, Council of the City of Gold Coast, to Ms Julie Harris, Director, SEQ Planning Pty Ltd, regarding Northern Gold Coast Canelands [\[6235\]](#).

I could go on, but I do not have enough time to read all that that man wrote. The CEO of the Gold Coast is telling people that no longer are we going to be looking at a broad plan; that we are not interested in looking at a broad plan and an investigation into the future potential of the area. He wants to look at agricultural uses. He wants to go back through the whole process that has resulted in 17 reports over the past 20-odd years and 13 reports over 15 years, and end up where? Absolutely nowhere, as far as the cane lands are concerned!

I call on the Gold Coast City Council to refer back to this report of 2010, which has 44 maps in it. One of those maps has a suitable crop for the area. What is it? It is bamboo. According to this plan, the only other agricultural crop that can be grown in that area is bamboo. I table that report as well.

*Tabled paper:* Department of Environment and Resource Management report titled, 'Landscape and suitability study of the Woongoolba-Rocky Point Area South East Queensland' [[6236](#)].

*(Time expired)*