



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2014

## MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

### Tinaroo Falls Dam, Redclaw

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.10 pm): I table a petition of more than 1,555 signatures from residents from the Atherton Tablelands and surrounding districts on behalf of the Tableland Fish Stocking Association calling on the department of fisheries and the state government for a permit to stock redclaw in Tinaroo Falls Dam.

*Tabled paper:* Non-conforming petition regarding the re-stocking of redclaw in Lake Tinaroo [\[5183\]](#).

This call comes after the permit to stock was withdrawn in 2005 after the then department of primary industries had stocked the dam for nearly 30 years. The stocking of redclaw has benefitted the region significantly for decades as a wonderful recreational, family and tourism spin-off that supported local business. This is about bringing recreational tourism and jobs and giving children the opportunity to throw in a yabbie pot and enjoy the Australian way of life. Since the department withdrew the stocking of redclaw, the numbers have dropped significantly. Withdrawal came about after the department believed that the redclaw was not a native and may impact on local crayfish. However, the reality is that there are many introduced fish species in Lake Tinaroo and while there is less redclaw every other species of fish target the native crayfish. The notion of redclaw not being a native to the Barron River is also questionable. A submission from the Tableland Fish Stocking Association states—

The assumption that redclaw are not in their natural range in Lake Tinaroo is incorrect and should be revisited. Redclaw are a native to the Mitchell River which is the headwater at Mareeba. Mareeba sits astride both the Mitchell and the Barron catchments. The Barron and Mitchell are separated by the width of the road just north of Mareeba and this area is very flat. During the floods in both catchments the anecdotal evidence is that redclaw moved freely naturally in the Barron catchment during the wet times.

I say to the minister that the dam is stocked with many non-native fish species and we need not get into the extreme science as the Mitchell and Barron meet and intertwine during massive floods, allowing redclaw to migrate to and from the Barron and the Mitchell River. So it is natural for redclaw to move in the Barron that makes it a native to the Barron. Another submission states—

Over the last few years we have noticed a decline in redclaw numbers to the extent that the Tableland Fish Stocking Association would like to purchase more redclaw and restock the dam. The redclaw fishery in Tinaroo has played a huge part in the number of visitors coming to the lake and staying at our park. Our numbers are dropping, with many visitors commenting on the lack of redclaw. After speaking with other caravan parks nearby and the bait and tackle shop, all have confirmed they are all suffering through this decline in visitors.

That submission was from Peter and Faith Buchanan. I table the submissions I just read from.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of submissions regarding the decline of Redclaw in Lake Tinaroo [\[5184\]](#).

On behalf of the residents of the Atherton Tablelands and surrounding districts, we seriously ask the minister to take into consideration stocking the dam with redclaw.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Tablelander*, dated 18 March 2014, titled 'Redclaw be dammed' [\[5185\]](#).

*(Time expired)*