



Speech By  
**Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Moreton Island, Fishing

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (7.12 pm): This evening I rise to speak about Moreton Island and concerns raised by the Koorungal Landholders Association. The association has put together a petition in relation to the department of fisheries, which is conducting an independent review on how state fisheries should be managed around Moreton Island and those submissions closed on 30 October 2014. This online petition states—

Everyone with an interest in Queensland's fisheries, be that recreational, commercial, indigenous, environmental or tourist-based, is encouraged to provide feedback. The Koorungal Landholders Association will be submitting feedback on behalf of residents.

And they have done that. The petition continues—

We are deeply concerned about the depletion of fish species in the waters between the Little Sandhills and the Rous Channel resulting from commercial net fishing. If you care about our pristine waters and believe that recreational fishing is a pastime that should be enjoyed for generations to come, please sign this petition to stop the commercial netting of fish in Days Gutter.

The petition goes on to say—

We, the undersigned, call on the Queensland Government to amend legislation to cease current commercial net fishing practices in the Moreton Island waters between the Rous Channel and the Little Sandhills.

Currently, there are 293 signatures to that petition. I would like to table a copy of that online petition.

*Tabled paper:* Webpage titled 'Stop Net Fishing Between the Rous Channel and the Little Sandhills' [[6602](#)].

The organisation have also submitted a submission to the review—which, as I said, closed on 30 October—and they have forwarded that submission and a copy of the petition link to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The members of the association would like the minister to advise this House when a decision will be released on that review. There are real concerns that the area is being fished out and that it is having other impacts, such as fireweed developing. Residents are actually being stung by this fireweed, which is increasing with the depletion of fish stock.

A second letter was also sent to the minister at the end of October with the submission, and that went to illegal fishing in the same area. We would call on the minister to advise how many fines or prosecutions have occurred in relation to illegal fishing in the immediate waters around Moreton Island and specifically in relation to the area identified in that correspondence to the minister—that is, Days Gutter. These are important issues to the community and we ask that the minister act on these issues and provide some feedback to the Koorungal Landholders Association and to the broader community of Moreton Island. We know that fishing is a great pastime. It is an important economic factor for recreational and commercial areas but it needs to be balanced with the community's interests.