




Speech By  
**Leanne Linard**

**MEMBER FOR NUDGE**

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### **NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, which will reverse retrograde amendments made by the previous government and reinstate the conservation of nature as the sole object of the Nature Conservation Act. This bill delivers on our government's commitment to once again provide the state's significant national parklands with the safeguards and protections that they deserve and need to ensure their continued survival and enjoyment by future generations. While continuing to recognise and encourage land uses such as recreation and ecotourism, the bill seeks first and foremost to ensure that national parks are afforded the greatest possible conservation safeguards, which were undermined by the previous government. The bill will also reinstate the former national park scientific, conservation park and resources reserve classes of protected area and their associated management principles to restore the higher level of protection afforded to such parks and clarify the management intent and uses that are appropriate for the different uses.

Within my electorate lies the Boondall Wetlands, containing more than 1,000 hectares of tidal flats, mangroves, salt marshes, melaleuca wetlands, casuarina forests, grasslands, open forests, woodlands and estuarine environments. The Boondall Wetlands is one of the most valuable environmental reserves in South-East Queensland. Its uniqueness in terms of biodiversity cannot be overstated, but its importance goes far beyond our own state borders. The Boondall Wetlands are part of a chain of coastal wetlands that are important to international migratory shorebirds that fly from Alaska, through Japan and other countries, to Australia, staying at the Boondall Wetlands before progressing further south. Its importance has been recognised by its listing as a Ramsar convention site.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms LINARD:** I do not think opposition members appreciate the Boondall Wetlands as much as they should. Ramsar is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Given the international recognition of its unique biodiversity value, it is alarming to reflect on the plan that surfaced around 1980 to develop the site as a marina, retail precinct and residential development with a high-rise unit development and canal estates. The proposal was the catalyst for a spirited community campaign that ultimately led to the decision to preserve the site for future generations. I note that, during his tenure as a member in this House, my predecessor, Neil Roberts, tabled a newspaper clipping he had found from the mid-1980s in this regard. I join him in thanking those community activists from the past for their vision in preserving this precious asset for generations to come. I also thank the minister and the Palaszczuk Labor government for their continued vision in this regard and for protecting our precious assets by ensuring that the preservation of the natural condition of national parks takes precedence over other objectives.

While I am talking about the Boondall Wetlands, I make special mention of the Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre, which is located in the Boondall Wetlands Reserve. The centre contains interactive displays and interpretative material promoting a greater understanding of wetlands flora and fauna and the importance of preserving natural areas. Similarly, the Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre in my electorate is challenging the many students from prep to year 12 who visit the centre to become environmentally and culturally aware and empowered as future keepers of the wetlands. In their own words, the centre delivers curriculum-relevant programs to enhance students' understanding of our past, present and future environmental footprints. They do an extraordinary and vital job educating future generations and I commend their conservation efforts.

Importantly, the bill continues to recognise and encourage other land uses, including educational efforts such as those, providing that a national park is to be managed to provide opportunities for education and recreation as long as such activities occur in a way that is consistent with the area's natural values. The bill also reinstates consultation mechanisms, which were removed by the former government, to provide increased transparency and ensure that appropriate consultation occurs in regard to management plans under the act. This bill will give effect to our election commitment to ensure that protected areas are preserved and protected to the greatest extent possible. The bill rights a wrong and once again ensures that our state's Nature Conservation Act has as its guiding principle to protect and conserve our natural and cultural assets for future generations to enjoy. We who have stewardship of those precious natural resources today must protect them for our children and the Queenslanders of tomorrow. I commend the bill to the House.