




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2016

**NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND
OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL; NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND
PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY (RENEWAL OF MINING LEASES)
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (8.41 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015. As I have previously advised the House, I am a Quandamooka woman and recognised traditional owner of the Quandamooka lands and seas and a member of the Quandamooka Yoolooburabee Aboriginal Corporation.

Whilst I have no direct pecuniary interest to declare in accordance with standing order 260, I do wish to record my interest as a Quandamooka woman so as to avoid any perceived conflict of interest about decisions made by the House which may affect members of my family. I have previously sought advice on this issue from the Integrity Commissioner. I table a copy of the commissioner's letter of reply.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 January 2016, from the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Mr Richard Bingham, to the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy, Hon. Leeanne Enoch, regarding potential conflicts of interest [778].

I confirm that I have also sought advice through the office of the Clerk of the Parliament about my position as a member of this House when matters relating to North Stradbroke Island are debated. I seek leave to speak in the language of Quandamooka people.

Leave granted.

Minister Enoch then addressed the House in the traditional language of the Quandamooka people.

Ms ENOCH: To translate, 'Hello. I am a saltwater goori from North Stradbroke Island and Moreton Island. I acknowledge our ancestors present and past and also the Jagera and Turrbal people and their country. Quandamooka is my home and also my ancestors' from long ago. Gooris from Quandamooka are strong people. Our country is also strong. So let us all welcome the good spirits here where we talk, think and understand.'

This is the first time that I am speaking publicly on this matter. I can declare to the House that I have removed myself from cabinet whenever this matter has been brought forward. I have remained neutral with my own family whom I recognise are in the gallery tonight. I have remained neutral because I am a Quandamooka woman. I stand as a Quandamooka woman with more than 3,000 generations before me. I love my family very much. I recognise that they have varying views on this but, at the same time, we are one family. We are the Quandamooka people. We stand here with more than 3,000 generations that have gone before us.

On 4 July this year the Quandamooka people will mark the fifth anniversary of our native title determination. I remember that day in 2011. It was an historic day. There were tears. There was great excitement. Many of my family, some of whom are here—Aunty Joan and Uncle Bob—never dreamed that they would see the day when the rights of the Quandamooka people would be returned to them. I was so grateful that my father got to see that day before he passed away. It took 16 years to reach that historic moment. Many of my family gave everything they had—their health, their wealth—to keep that fight alive.

There is a reason the Quandamooka people fought so hard for our determination—why Aboriginal people fight for determinations. That is because we are here with 3,000 generations deep of our family. I am 3,000 generations deep in Quandamooka land. That is where my family have been for all that time. That is why we fight for this. That is why we fought for our native title determination. There are responsibilities that we hold and have carried through thousands of generations to ensure that our country, the place where our ancestors have been connected and we are connected, we connect to and we take care of.

In 2013 the LNP government, led by the Newman-Nicholls team, legislated against the native title rights of the Quandamooka people. They stripped that from us. They prevented traditional owners from having a say. In fact the LNP government had met more times with the mining company than the actual traditional owners.

As I understand it, the committee report at the time admitted that the government had not consulted with the Quandamooka people on the legislation that breached the Queensland Legislative Standards Act 1992. Without consent, the LNP changed a range of measures that had previously been agreed on by the Quandamooka people who were standing there 2,000 generations deep.

What we have seen since is the LNP actively working to turn families against families. It has been absolutely heartbreaking to hear elders in tears because they have not spoken to their own sister or brother over this matter. We have had the member for Cleveland around kitchen tables with elders turning them against their own families.

Dr ROBINSON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I find those comments offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw. It is not the place of politicians or corporations to get in the middle of families and to turn kinship structures inside out to benefit their own political agenda. That is not the place of politicians.

My father worked in that sand mine as a young man. He would say that it was the right kind of economy for that time. Many of my family members have benefitted from the economy that it generated. My father always knew that it was a temporary industry because of the impact on the island. In the final years of his life he reflected on the question of what next for his beloved island home.

Much of the mining lease, for instance, covers traditional places of great cultural significance, places that traditional owners, my family, representing thousands of generations, do not have access to, cannot teach children about, cannot pass on to the next generation. That is why it is important to understand that it is time for a new economy for North Stradbroke Island. That is why the transition plan in particular is one of the most generous that we have ever seen from the Queensland government, one that will make a difference in terms of what kind of economy will go forward but at the same time allow traditional owners the right to fulfil their own responsibilities that they have carried for thousands of generations. It provides that opportunity so that Quandamooka people, who five years ago celebrated that historic win in our native title determination, with the passing of the government's bill, will once again have ownership, that we will once again be treated respectfully and have our say over our own country.

I pay tribute to all of my family, elders, cousins, brothers and sisters who have fought so hard for this and who have continued the fight to remain respected and to ensure that future generations will be able to partake in the culture that we have been holding so close for thousands of generations. I am very proud to be part of a government that puts the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the place that it should be—in a respectful place, respecting the fact that we have lived here for more than 3,000 generations. I commend the government's bill to the House.