




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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FISHERIES (SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 as a keen fisherwoman. The Palaszczuk government released the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 in June 2017, paving the way for a world-class fisheries management system. It sets out the reform agenda for the next 10 years.

Queensland's current fisheries management framework is outdated, cumbersome and incapable of appropriately responding to sustainability issues. Decision-making processes are slow and unclear, and Queensland's ability to respond to issues such as black marketing lags behind other Australian jurisdictions. The black marketing of seafood is a serious problem in Central Queensland, so I am pleased that the bill will combat the illegal trade of seafood with the creation of an indictable offence for the illegal trafficking of priority fisheries resources, for example shark fin, mud crabs and reef fish. A person convicted of such offences could face a penalty of up to 3,000 penalty units, currently \$391,650, or three years imprisonment.

My grandmother taught me to fish and I married a keen fisherman. Fishing is literally in our blood. Our favourite pastime is throwing a line in, either in our amazing Fitzroy River, which is fast becoming the largest wild barramundi fishery in the world, or in our beautiful Keppel Bay, part of the southern Great Barrier Reef. Crabbing in Coorooman is always fun. In fact, we are planning on taking the tinnie out over Easter to hopefully net a few. Home cooked Singapore chilli crab is actually my personal forte. Odette has already been on her first fishing trip, and my family and I hope that fishing becomes a favourite hobby of hers as she grows.

My father-in-law, Rodney, is a passionate advocate for sustainable fishing. He has always said that we should only take what we need. It frustrates me when people do not fish by this rule. If we all work together and only take what we need and abide by bag limits and commercial laws, we will have a much more sustainable fishery. I am proud that this bill will ensure that the public's fisheries resources are sustainable into the future and will ensure our children and grandchildren can enjoy recreational fishing and local sustainable Queensland seafood.