



Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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FISHERIES (SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.48 am): I rise to speak in support of the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. Queensland is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. Seafood is just one of them. The worth of our oceans, our marine resources, is on display throughout Lytton. My electorate is bounded by beautiful Moreton Bay, a prime source of seafood and a site for fishing for generations of Queenslanders. We have a proud and rich history of fishing. We know that traditional owners have fished and managed the waters of Quandamooka for thousands of generations. I thank them for their care and custodianship of this important piece of water in my area.

European fishing started as early as the 1890s. There were no marinas so fishermen looked for safe, sheltered moorings. Wynnum Creek was an obvious and popular choice. Since then there have been generations of fishing families, including the Crouch family, who fished continually out of Wynnum Creek from 1890 until recently.

At its peak Wynnum Creek was accounting for 13 per cent of the total of Queensland's catch. The employment and associated industries that were created from fishing meant that over 50 per cent of local residents were dependant on Wynnum Creek. That is how Wynnum Creek grew into the village of Wynnum, and still today the Wynnum fishing industry remains successful. The 2018 Australian Fish and Chips Awards confirmed what we long-term residents and day visitors alike knew to be true—that we in Wynnum have the very best fish and chip shop in Queensland. I am very proud of that fact.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PEASE: I take that interjection. It was the judges' choice, so I want to congratulate Dimitri and his team at Fish n Chip Co. in Wynnum on this wonderful achievement, and I acknowledge the great work of the Queensland Seafood Marketers Association in promoting this competition. I encourage and invite all members of the House to drop down to the bay to check out Dimitri at Fish n Chip Co. or any one of the many great fish and chip shops in the area, including my friends at Pelican's Nest. You will not beat it for an afternoon out.

The iconic status of our seafood in Queensland means that we have a special obligation to keep it available for the future. Successive Queensland governments have recognised the need to reform Queensland's fisheries management system and large public surveys and ongoing consultation about fisheries reform since 2014 have shown that there is public support for taking action to preserve these benefits. We in this House are in a position to act to keep our fisheries sustainable and well managed, and it is important that we as the current generation of legislators take action now to safeguard the future of our Queensland fisheries.

We want to be in a position to leave the legacy of a sustainable fishery for our children and grandchildren. I cannot wait to take my grandchildren fishing down on Manly wall. There is absolutely no pressure, Callum and Audrey—you can relax—but I look forward to it sometime in the future. I want to be able to share my love of fishing—let us call it casting practice—and to experience the thrill of that nibble and then the bite and the reeling in of tonight's dinner. This bill will help us achieve this legacy.

When we know that the state can do better, and be better, then it is incumbent upon us to change how government does its business. The bill will ensure that the public's fisheries resources are sustainable into the future and will ensure our children and our grandchildren can enjoy recreational fishing and local sustainable Queensland seafood.

It is time for a positive and effective change to how we manage our fisheries in Queensland. 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 jurisdictions. This bill will deliver more responsive decision-making through our harvest strategies that set out preagreed and approved rules for each fishery to achieve the agreed ecological, economic and/or social objectives. This approach is recognised as best practice and is used in other states.

The bill also supports the introduction of vessel tracking on commercial vehicles, particularly the priority fisheries of line, reef and crab, from 1 January 2019. A key component of the bill is to provide stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences such as seafood black marketing. During consultation earlier this year, more than 90 per cent of respondents supported the adoption of stronger compliance powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences. I agree with them. Commercial operators work hard to bring in their catch and put it out to market. Having other fishers undercut their work and compromise the health of the fishery is unacceptable.

This bill proposes that individuals convicted of trafficking in priority fish species could face a maximum penalty of up to 3,000 penalty units or three years imprisonment. This fine is significant and sends a strong signal back to would-be black marketers. These penalties are in line with those in place in other Australian states where they have proven effective in combating black marketing. It is clear that Queenslanders want action to stop the black marketing of seafood in this state which undermines legitimate fishing businesses, and this bill delivers on this. It is clear that Queenslanders want action taken and the additional 20 boating patrols that our government has funded and recruited will also support the enforcement of these changes. These changes will support better conservation outcomes, promote local jobs and cut out wrongdoing. We support them and I support this bill.