



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2019

**NATURE CONSERVATION (SPECIAL WILDLIFE RESERVES) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.39 pm): What an extraordinary level of hyperbole and negativity from the Leader of the Opposition. I suspect that the Leader of the Opposition will not be in the leadership position in perpetuity based on performances like that. No doubt she will be looking over her shoulder, as she is doing—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Order! Minister, if you could return to the long title of the bill it would be helpful.

Mr BAILEY: We all know that she is looking over her shoulder at the member for Broadwater. We see that in her behaviour all the time.

I rise to speak in support of the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill will establish a new class of voluntary, privately managed protected areas—special wildlife reserves—that will provide a similar level of statutory protection to that currently afforded to state managed national parks.

Establishing the special wildlife reserve mechanism will not only allow for appropriate protection of outstanding natural areas on private land but also provide a significant incentive for private investment in Queensland's protected areas. This is yet another example of this Palaszczuk Labor government leading the way as this level of protection of private land does not currently exist in Queensland or, indeed, in any other jurisdiction in Australia. We are leading the country on environmental protection once again.

This bill will also allow the government to consistently regulate transshipping in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park regardless of whether it is conducted wholly or only partly in Queensland waters. Transshipping is the transferring of cargo from one vessel to another while at sea, and we want to make sure that this is regulated consistently across waters in the Great Barrier Reef region. When we are talking about the Great Barrier Reef, it is this government that has acted to protect the Great Barrier Reef in every way, shape or form, acting on renewable energy, acting on tree clearing—dealing with the issues affecting the Great Barrier Reef. We are the ones who are acting to protect it. Those opposite are opposing those measures. This is another form of good environmental policy.

A minor amendment to the Environmental Protection Act will allow for environmentally risky activities to be regulated even when they are conducted partially within Queensland waters and partially beyond but within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This is relevant especially for activities such as transshipping that have an onshore and offshore component.

Back in March 2015, the Palaszczuk government joined with the Australian government to release the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan. My department has worked collaboratively with the Department of Environment and Science in consultation with the shipping industry and other federal

agencies to develop stringent safety measures for bulk carriers operating in the Great Barrier Reef. Queensland's economy relies heavily on our shipping and it is important that this be conducted in a safe and sustainable manner.

The reef contributes more than \$6 billion to the Australian economy and supports more than 60,000 jobs—but the reef is under threat. That is very clear. That is what science tells us. That is what all the agencies know. We need to do everything we can to ensure that it is protected. Thankfully, with this government now in its second term and getting through policy with the support of the Queensland people, we are delivering on this very high commitment. To be quite frank, the claims by those opposite, including the Leader of the Opposition, that they have any credibility on environmental protection is absolutely laughable. That is one of the key reasons they lost not just the last election but the election before. While they continue to dud the environment, while they continue to not support policy in terms of protecting the environment and the reef, they will keep losing elections.

The amendments to the Environmental Protection Act contained in this bill are a necessary prerequisite to amend the regulations to deliver the transshipping outcomes required to ensure the safety of the reef, and further community and industry engagement will occur during this process. These protections are vitally important for the protection of our marine environment because we recognise that neither nature nor pollution are bound by arbitrary boundaries between Queensland and Commonwealth jurisdictions.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has a strong track record on the sustainable protection of our environment. It was this Palaszczuk Labor government that banned single-use plastic bags. It was this Palaszczuk Labor government that introduced the container refund scheme. It was this Palaszczuk Labor government that brought back the waste levy to ensure that Queensland is not the dumping ground for other states, as it had become under the Newman LNP government. It was the Palaszczuk Labor government that has been leading the way in the transition to renewable energy after we went absolutely nowhere for three years under the LNP. We all know that they are still contorted on that issue, unable to come up with a modern policy that has anything to do with the modern energy market. It was the Palaszczuk Labor government that stopped tree clearing in this state.

Once again, it will be the Palaszczuk Labor government leading the way in protecting our environment through establishing special wildlife reserves and regulating transshipping. I commend the minister for her excellent leadership in this area. I commend the bill to the House.