




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2019

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.51 pm): I too rise to speak on the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee report No. 20 titled *Examination of Auditor-General report No. 7 of 2018-19: Conserving threatened species*. From the outset, I will say that I will actually speak on the report and will not waffle on about threatened species over here when there are enough threatened species over there.

Ms Bates: The member for Gaven, the member for Aspley.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. The Auditor-General's job is to investigate, do quality assurance of and hold the public sector to some type of accountability, as well as to check on its performance. I found this committee inquiry quite interesting. In Queensland, 955 species are listed as threatened wildlife. Of those, 33 are extinct, 301 are endangered and 621 are vulnerable. The Auditor-General's report states that the number of species listed in legislation as threatened is likely to be understated, so it is curious that those opposite believe that the legislation does not cover all threatened species.

The Auditor-General made quite a few findings in relation to threatened species, including that the department was not proactively nominating species for listing or encouraging relevant stakeholders to make nominations. The report found that delays occur between the assessment process and the listing of appropriate threatened species in legislation. It also found that the department did not provide a periodic review to the existing classifications. For a government that takes the high moral ground when it comes to the environment, that throws a bit of egg in their faces as they are not keeping up with their own philosophies. If you think about it, that is rather hypocritical.

Further to those comments, the Auditor-General's report states that the overall focus on threatened species is not strategic enough to help individual threatened species. The Auditor-General stated that some progress has been made, but when it comes to individual species the government's approach reminds me of the Great Barrier Reef bill that we recently passed in the chamber which affected all of the Queensland coastline from Bundaberg up. It was a one-size-fits-all approach and in his report the Auditor-General states that obviously such an approach does not work very well.

Mr Bleijie: Talk about the Stretton species.

Mr BOOTHMAN: We have plenty of threatened species over there.

Ms Bates: No, the 'Stretton species'.

Mr BOOTHMAN: There is one Stretton species over there and another Stretton species is moving away from him. What have you done, Stretton?

Mr Bleijie: The 'backbenchersaurus-foreversaurus'.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection; that is quite good. Returning to the report, the Auditor-General found that plenty more could be done, but it is not being done. We had a closed hearing and obviously cannot talk about it, although comments from that closed hearing would sit very well and should be put into the public domain. Obviously they will not be disclosed.

I know that soon the member for Broadwater will stand up and talk about the report. He will make a reasonable and very valid contribution, which will be far better than that of the member for Stretton, who would rather talk about the opposition and his love affair with the member for Broadwater. He spoke about the member for Broadwater throughout his whole contribution.

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the suggestion that I am having a love affair with the member for Broadwater. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Stretton, do you want that comment withdrawn?

Mr PEGG: Yes, I do, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Theodore, do you withdraw?

Mr BOOTHMAN: I withdraw.