



Speech By  
**Mark Robinson**


**MEMBER FOR OODGEROO**

---

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

## ADJOURNMENT

### Moreton Bay Marine Park

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.02 pm): I would like to acknowledge the wonderful people of Townsville. I always feel at home here because for 13 years Townsville was my home. I studied marine science at James Cook University in the early 1980s and I greatly enjoyed boating, diving, fishing and researching on the Great Barrier Reef. Whether it is the Great Barrier Reef or Moreton Bay, where I live now, we need to protect the reef's systems and the marine life that rely on them but without the current abuse of science and the farmers. We need to balance the protection of our marine environment with opportunities to access the waters and to continue to sustainably fish in these waters. We need to get this right with the Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan 10-year review already under way from 1 September.

In terms of boating access to Moreton Bay, the Boating Industry Association issued a warning to the Labor government in their winter 2019 Logbook under the 'Queensland update'. I quote from page 12—

Members in Queensland may be aware of publicity suggesting the zoning plan aims to prohibit individual boats entering the marine park on more than 120 days per year; this requirement has been in the plan since 2009 but would appear to have been unenforced or certainly not properly communicated to the boating community. BIA will be making a submission with a request to revoke this draconian regulation when the full review consultation commences.

I share the concerns of the Boating Industry Association that with the Moreton Bay Marine Park review there should not be restricted access to Moreton Bay. Boaties and fishers of the Redlands' coast will not take kindly to being told by local Labor MPs that they cannot freely access their bay. In terms of fishing restrictions in Moreton Bay, I have always stood up for the rights of the boaties and fishers of Moreton Bay, particularly in the Cleveland district, and their rights to fish sustainably. It concerns me greatly that, before the 10-year review of the marine park, the fisheries minister had already announced restrictions upon professional and recreational fishers without presenting solid scientific fish stock data to prove that they are fishing unsustainably. Fishermen are angry to hear that Labor are once more considering imposing even greater fishing restrictions as part of the review. To have further fishing restrictions by way of no-take green zones, surely Labor must prove that the fish stocks are being irreparably depleted.

Sadly, Labor's confusing anti-fishing policies are more about Green preference politics at election time and less about science and sustainable fishing. As we head into the Moreton Bay Marine Park 10-year review, the government should know that the local recreational fishers, professional fishers and seafood consumers will hold them responsible at election time for any further radicalising of the fishing policy within the marine park.