




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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**NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (GDA2020) AMENDMENT
BILL**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.54 pm): It was only 501 years ago when Magellan jumped in his ship and sailed around the world. Back in those days they thought that the earth was flat, and there are probably one or two people who still think that, in this House anyway. However, Magellan took a leap of faith. Linked with that is Lieutenant James Cook. Very few people may know this, but a lot of us understand that James Cook was sent to Tahiti to map the transition of Venus across the sun. Why was he doing that? Not to get blinded by the sunlight's rays but to determine the size of the earth, so it was used to measure the size of the earth. They needed someone in the Southern Hemisphere as well as someone simultaneously in the Northern Hemisphere to be able to track and map the time it took for Venus to transition across the sun's path and from that they could determine the size of the earth, which is roughly, give or take two or three metres, around about 40,000 kilometres in circumference. We heard from the member for Lytton who said that, according to Carole King, the earth moves under her feet. According to Graeme Connors, he travels a little further north each year. In fact, it is at seven centimetres each year that he travels a little further north.

In all seriousness, 500 years ago Magellan sailed around the world thinking that he would fall off the edge, but he did not. Some 250 years later James Cook was mapping and determining the size of the earth and then starting to use longitude and latitude to map the Southern Hemisphere, and in 1994 we had the Global Positioning System which we are now updating. I have given my contribution of two minutes and 20 seconds and a little history lesson for those in the chamber today. I support the bill.