




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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**NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION (INDIGENOUS JOINT  
MANAGEMENT—MORETON ISLAND) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.48 pm): I rise to speak on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill with particular reference to the collaborative steps taken by the Palaszczuk Labor government and the Quandamooka people on Mulgumpin. In doing so, I applaud the process of engagement and understanding between the parties involved.

The approach to returning state land and jointly managing the protected areas on Mulgumpin follows a precedent set by the state's actions in earlier native title consent determinations. That such a number of settlement outcomes negotiated between the state of Queensland and representatives of the Quandamooka people was successful is a tribute to this model of joint management of protected areas between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Indigenous traditional owners. It is laudable evidence of reconciliation that provides a blueprint for future partnerships.

I am proud that a similar form of collaboration between state and federal agencies in my electorate, between the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the department of environment and the Woppaburra people, the traditional owners of the Keppel islands and Keppel Bay in my electorate, was pivotal to the success of a venture of which I am very proud. In the spirit of reconciliation, the Woppaburra people and the environmental centre on North Keppel Island have been working in close partnership since 2011. In 2013, a statement of intent was signed, acknowledging the Woppaburra people's right to protect, preserve and revive their law, language and sites of cultural significance. It facilitates education and reconciliation practices through mutual respect and recognition of Woppaburra ancestors. While I acknowledge it does not have the same legislative controls as the joint management of protected areas on Mulgumpin, as detailed in this bill, the successful process is similar in terms of cooperation, education and understanding which facilitates reconciliation.

In the case of Mulgumpin, the formal partnership with the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation underlines the expectation that joint management of the island's natural and cultural resources can only enhance their value, particularly in terms of tourism. Joint management will facilitate greater self-determination and protect and promote the cultural rights of the Quandamooka people. This continues the underlying drive by the Palaszczuk government to work collaboratively with Indigenous traditional owners, tapping into their unique knowledge and understanding of land protection practices.

One significant change that has occurred through my own involvement in the partnership on North Keppel Island is the reconnection of Woppaburra elders to their country. This demonstrates the Woppaburra people's sovereign ancestral and traditional ownership over country and demonstrates the five dimensions of reconciliation: race relations, equality and equity, unity, institutional integrity and historical acceptance. Such is the success of the Woppaburra and North Keppel Island EEC partnership that their work was acknowledged by the awarding of an esteemed Queensland Reconciliation Award in the education category.

Another chapter in the Woppaburra history was the official celebration of the declaration of Balban Dara Guya—mangroves, creek and fish in Woppaburra language—as a fish habitat area on Great Keppel Island because of its important environmental and cultural significance. This is now protected from the impacts of coastal development. In many ways, Balban Dara Guya is an iconic milestone for Queensland's declared fish habitat area network as it was the first fish habitat area declared on an offshore continental island. Like the successful partnership involving the state government and the Quandamooka people, collaboration between agencies was pivotal to the success of this venture.

There are economic opportunities that can come with joint land management. No doubt these opportunities on Mulgumpin will continue to grow and diversify with the partnership with the Quandamooka people.

In summary, this bill warms my heart because I share its values, see its potential and applaud the collaborative spirit from which it was derived. As for many Indigenous people before, this bill facilitates the rightful return of land on Mulgumpin to the Quandamooka people. It is something every member of this parliament can be very proud of. It is up to us to continue consultation in relation to the future management of not only Mulgumpin but also other native title regions as they qualify. I commend the bill to House.