




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. The Quandamooka people are First Nations custodians of lands and waters within parts of the Moreton Bay region, and I acknowledge their elders past and present and thank them for their custodianship of the lands and waters that I really enjoy, as I am truly fortunate to be a resident of Quandamooka country at Wynnum. Mulgumpin, meaning 'place of sandhills', is the name for Moreton Island in the Quandamooka people's language. Like the member for Sandgate, each day I look out across Quandamooka to see these very sandhills of Mulgumpin. I too, like the member for Clayfield, have enjoyed this magnificent place on regular holidays.

The Quandamooka people collectively include the Ngugi clan from Mulgumpin and the Goenpul and Nunukal clans from Minjerribah. The Quandamooka people have more than 20,000 years association with their country. Extensive site surveys have established that the Ngugi people lived on Mulgumpin on a permanent basis maintaining a marine based lifestyle for over 2,000 years. As part of the outcomes negotiated for the native title consent determination, state land will be returned to the wonderful Quandamooka people. The lands will be held in trust by QYAC and continue to be managed as part of Queensland's protected area estate.

Mulgumpin features creeks and lagoons, coastal heath, rocky headlands, abundant wildflowers, tall sand dunes, an historic lighthouse, ruins of coastal forts and miles and miles of sandy beaches. Mulgumpin is unique in its offering of self-reliant and nature based recreational opportunities in a relatively undeveloped island environment so very close to Brisbane. Many people go to Mulgumpin to seek isolation and seclusion from city life and to enjoy beachside activities and camping. Camping and vehicle access permits for Mulgumpin are now booked and managed through Mulgumpin Camping which is owned and operated by QYAC. Camping and vehicle access permit fees in Queensland recreational areas help support the ongoing management of the recreation area, which includes maintaining and improving the camping areas, vehicle and walking tracks, toilets, signs and more.

The approach to returning state land and jointly managing the protected areas of Mulgumpin is consistent with the action taken by the state following the Quandamooka people's previous native title consent determinations over Minjerribah in 2011. On 27 November 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 recognising the Quandamooka people's native title rights to Mulgumpin. Protected areas on Mulgumpin include the recently renamed Gheebulum Coonungai (Moreton Island) National Park and Cape Moreton Conservation Park, which are currently state land. As an outcome of the native title determination, these lands will be returned to Quandamooka people as Aboriginal land and subsequently become jointly managed protected areas.

Before these lands can be granted as Aboriginal land to the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, the land must be first identified as transferrable land in the Aboriginal Land Act 1991. The Aboriginal Land Act is therefore being amended to provide that prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin are transferable land. This land will include most of the existing Gheebulum Coonungai (Moreton Island) National Park, Cape Moreton Conservation Park and some unallocated state land that is proposed to be added to the protected area estate in the near future. Some small areas of existing protected area that support Maritime Safety Queensland and Australian Maritime Safety Authority facilities for navigation safety purposes are excluded following agreements reached between QYAC and the relevant state and federal government agencies.

Once the land becomes transferable under the Aboriginal Land Act, steps can be taken to prepare deeds of grants and seek Governor in Council approval to appoint QYAC as the grantee of the land. When the land is granted, it will mark the formal return of the traditional lands of the Quandamooka people to their ownership. QYAC will take responsibility for holding the lands in trust for the Quandamooka people and, through joint management arrangements, work in partnership with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to manage these parts of Mulgumpin as part of Queensland's protected area estate. This outcome reflects similar processes undertaken to transfer prescribed protected areas on Minjerribah to QYAC following the Quandamooka people's native title determination in 2011.

As I have already said, these changes were as a result of a 2019 Federal Court of Australia native title consent determination under the Commonwealth Native Title Act. As part of the consent determination, a number of settlement outcomes were negotiated between the state and representatives of the Quandamooka people. A key outcome was to work towards joint management of protected areas on Mulgumpin, similar to existing joint management agreements on Minjerribah, as I have spoken about already.

However, before the Indigenous joint management area can be declared, the prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin need to be granted as Aboriginal land to QYAC, which are the trustees of the land for the Quandamooka people. Once the land is granted as Aboriginal land, a separate process to establish the Indigenous joint management area can commence and, once completed, formal joint management agreements can commence. This will allow subsequent processes to occur to prepare deeds of grant and seek Governor in Council approval to grant the land to QYAC as Aboriginal freehold land. As I have said, once granted the land will be held in trust by QYAC for the Quandamooka people and the land will continue to be managed as part of Queensland's protected area.

Returning land to the Quandamooka people in the form of Aboriginal freehold land will facilitate greater self-determination and protect and promote the rights of the Quandamooka people. This action will deliver land justice and increase cultural awareness of the significant connection First Nations people have to their country and the important role they have in the management of country. Joint management of Mulgumpin will be facilitated by this bill and will provide opportunities to enhance visitor experiences through the showcasing of Aboriginal history and culture by First Nations people from the area. The high conservation and cultural value of Mulgumpin will become an intrinsic part of visiting the island, building a greater appreciation of the history and culture and the future aspirations of the Quandamooka people for this very special place. I commend the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020 to the House.