




Speech By  
**Kim Richards**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise to support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020. May I start by acknowledging the Quandamooka people, the traditional owners of the land to which this bill relates and also the traditional owners of my home in the Redlands on Quandamooka country, and pay my respects to elders both past and present and those whose wisdom guides us into the future.

I acknowledge Uncle Bob and Kath up in the gallery today. It is so fantastic that they have been able to join us for the two days we have been discussing this very important bill. I had the great pleasure of attending the launch of Uncle Bob's *History, Life and Times of Robert Anderson*. I want to share with the House the acknowledgement at the front of the book of Uncle Bob, who is 91 this year, because I think it is really worth reading and understanding his history and his experience. He says—

The vision of my country, the way I view or see my country, the way I talk or sing up my country, the way I talk of the stories of my country and talk about my Elders and Ancestors, this is my cultural heritage. The way I call their names as I walk the sacred places of my country and the way I remember their brave deeds on my land is my cultural heritage. My spiritual connection with the land is my cultural heritage. All these things are a part of my cultural heritage.

To walk my country, to gather the shell fish from the ocean beaches and the bay side beaches, is part of my cultural heritage. To see the changing nature of the flora with the seasons, to gather the wild flowers and to eat the berries and fruits of my country, reminds me of my mother and her connection to this my cultural heritage. To observe the birds, their migratory flight patterns, and nesting habitats, to understand how their presence fertilises, pollinates and regenerates the plant growth; how they herald the arrival of the deep-sea mullet, the whales and other sea inhabitants, for seasonal sustenance. This is the cultural heritage of my country.

To be with my family and community people walking the country together, making that strong spiritual connection with the land is my cultural heritage. To continue to walk the bora ground and practice my cultural rights and responsibilities, as well as acknowledge the importance of this continuation on my country, is my cultural heritage.

If we do not have access to our land, we are denied the right to maintain our practices that protect, preserve and nurture our land and our cultural heritage.

In my country, like all of you, there is a story of Creation of Life. Mine is as important to me as yours is to you. So let me tell you my story as handed down to me from my Uncle Paul Tripcony.

Uncle Bob has led an extraordinary life. Again, it is so wonderful to have him here.

I acknowledge Quandamooka woman Leeanne Enoch—what a strong and incredible lady she is. I also acknowledge the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, and the member for Bundamba, Lance McCallum. It is incredible to have three First Nations people in this place representing our community.

On 27 November 2019, the Federal Court made a consent determination recognising the native title rights of Quandamooka people over Mulgumpin, on Quandamooka country. It is timely, given the contributions of some on the other side of this House, to remind the LNP that the state is required to work with the Quandamooka native title body and, to be very clear, that is the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation. QYAC is the prescribed body corporate set up to manage business with all three levels of government.

Mulgumpin, a place of sandhills, is the second largest sand island on the earth and, like Minjerribah on our Quandamooka coast, it is an incredible island right on our doorstep. Mulgumpin has natural and cultural significance and is enjoyed by so many thousands of people each year. Now these visitors will have the opportunity to better connect with one of the world's oldest living cultures. I acknowledge how important that connection to country is to the Quandamooka people.

Uncle Bob gave me this message, which I think everybody in this chamber needs to reflect on and remember: 'Wherever there is bipartisan support, goodwill and understanding will flourish for Quandamooka people, residents and visitors to Mulgumpin. The land will always embrace people of goodwill and spirit.'

It has been extraordinarily disappointing to listen to some of the contributions from members on the other side of the House. For me, it has been extraordinarily disappointing to witness some who wish to play the politics of division within their community. Our role in this place is to work to unite and to bring our communities together. As the member for Algester and Quandamooka woman Leeanne Enoch said in her incredible contribution to this place yesterday—

As we embark on a new frontier of challenge as Quandamooka people, as Mulgumpin people, as Ngugi people, the challenges will be there for us, but they are our challenges to face; they are not the plaything of political parties.


That is what we have seen in so many contributions from this side of the House.

The contribution from the member for Oodgeroo was, for me, particularly disappointing and highlighted the political division he has fostered over many years. I have been on Minjerribah at both Redland City Council run forums and Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce forums. I have seen his work in action. In terms of his popularity on the island, I am sure the member for Capalaba will have more to say about that in his contribution.

In respect of the contribution from the member for Bonney, I agree that there should always be a continual path of learning from what has worked and what has not, but I will say that you are misguided if you have not been able to witness on Minjerribah the successful economic transition post sand mining. That was incorrect in that contribution. All levels of government have been working to support that island and to ensure it flourishes economically today and into the future. They will do exactly that for the Quandamooka people, the community, the residents and the visitors to Mulgumpin into the future. With the traditional owners, we are delivering on the opportunity to celebrate the history and the beauty of one of the world's oldest living cultures in Quandamooka people.

Another part of the member for Bonney's contribution related to footpaths, amenity blocks and car parking. It absolutely is a local council responsibility. I have been there to hear it for myself. Those are things the local council needs to be investing in. Our government is investing in state-of-the-art cultural facilities over there. It has to work hand in hand with and be supported by the local council.

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 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.02 pm), continuing: These new arrangements the legislation affords will deliver many benefits, particularly for this pristine environment, through the joint management role in the land and care for country. QYAC for some time now has been working on having Mulgumpin recognised as a World Heritage site for its outstanding natural and cultural values. As part of the agreement, the residents of Mulgumpin will receive a dedicated budget for their national park and it provides the opportunity for significant benefits in biodiversity conservation. Plans are in place to increase fire trails and facilitate better fire management. Having had the opportunity firsthand to see the expertise of Quandamooka rangers on Minjerribah during the fires a few years ago, their knowledge is absolutely invaluable in how we mitigate against fire into the future and dealing with fires when they arise. We have so much to learn from the stories and from the knowledge built up over many generations of our First Nations people.

The primary purpose of this bill is to enable the Palaszczuk government to deliver on its commitments made during the native title determination process and enshrined in the Indigenous land use agreements regarding the joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin. The commitment to jointly manage the prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin is aimed at delivering land justice and to facilitate a recognition and an awareness of the significant connection that the Quandamooka people have to their country and the important role they have in the management of the protected areas of Mulgumpin.

The government is also providing investment in capital works for a new ranger base, workshops and ranger accommodation on Mulgumpin to increase the presence of rangers on the island and to provide improved facilities to assist with management of the land, including improved presentation of the Quandamooka people's culture, conservation, visitor and fire management outcomes. Just like all

of our islands on the Quandamooka coast—Minjerribah, Coochiemudlo, Kanaipa, Jercuruba, Ngudjuru and Karragarra—Mulgumpin’s protected areas will continue to offer unrivalled adventures and enjoyment so that families can treasure Mulgumpin into the future.

The Palaszczuk government delivers on its commitments and this bill’s primary objective is to deliver those commitments. It will enable the implementation of joint management and working together with our Quandamooka peoples. To conclude, like the minister I too want to repeat part of *A Song of Hope* by Quandamooka woman Oodgeroo Noonuccal—

To our fathers’ fathers

The pain, the sorrow;

To our children’s children

The glad tomorrow.

I commend this bill to the House.