




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.29 pm): I rise in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill. The Quandamooka people are First Nations custodians of lands and waters within the Moreton Bay region. I acknowledge the Quandamooka people. I acknowledge the presence of Uncle Bob Anderson in the chamber today. I also acknowledge the member for Algeester and her connection to country as a member of the Quandamooka nation and her eloquent and learned contribution to this bill yesterday.

The Federal Court made a consent determination recognising the native title rights of Quandamooka people over Moreton Island, which is also more properly called Mulgumpin. Mulgumpin, meaning place of sandhills, is the First Nations name for Moreton Island. The Quandamooka people have thousands and thousands of years of unbroken association with their country and today we move to protect, enshrine and promote their rights.

I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Greenslopes. He put forward a number of analogies of connection to place and connection to community. Everybody who is a member of this place, whether it was for a short time or a long time, will feel an incredible sense of connection with and a sense of ownership of this place, its traditions and the privilege of being here. It is a connection to this place. Can you imagine what that strength of connection feels like for people who have been on their country living their culture for over 20,000 years? This bill is about recognising that connection and moving to reconcile and heal past injustices.

Mulgumpin is the second largest sand island on earth and an amazing and beautiful physical location that is on the doorstep of South-East Queensland. It has an amazing natural and deep cultural significance and prior to COVID was enjoyed by more than 170,000 people per year. Visitors will now have the opportunity to better connect with the oldest continuous living culture on earth.

The primary purpose of this bill is to give effect to the commitments made during the native title determination process and enshrined in the Indigenous land use agreement regarding the joint management of prescribed protected areas of Mulgumpin. This commitment will help deliver land justice and facilitate a recognition and awareness in the broader community of the significant connection that the Quandamooka people have to their country. It will also acknowledge the important role—the critical role—that they have in the management of the protected areas on Mulgumpin which features beautiful creeks, lagoons, coastal heath, rocky headlands, wildflowers and tall sand dunes.

All of this is only 40 kilometres north-east of Brisbane. These areas will continue to offer unrivalled camping, fishing, four-wheel driving adventures and the activities that so many visitors have in the past and currently enjoy. It was wonderful to hear the contribution from the member for Logan about his family holidays as a youngster. I think many of us have similar personal stories and personal connections.

The joint management that is proposed under this bill will further support and strengthen these connections and the kinds of activities that all of us are able to enjoy on Mulgumpin. Most importantly, it will allow the traditional knowledge of the Quandamooka people to be incorporated into management activities that enhance the natural and cultural values of Mulgumpin for the benefit of all Queenslanders and visitors alike.

This bill delivers the necessary legal framework to support the joint management of the protected areas of Mulgumpin and this management will occur between the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, or QYAC as most people know it. The prescribed areas included in the joint management agreements are the recently named Gheebulum Coonungai National Park and the Cape Moreton Conservation Park, apart from some small areas that support Maritime Safety Queensland and Australian Maritime Safety Authority facilities for navigation safety purposes. The new name of the national park connects to a Quandamooka creation of life story and when spoken in language of the Quandamooka people means 'the lightning's playground'.

Amendments contained in the bill to the Aboriginal Land Act will give prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin the status of transferable land and formally recognise an Indigenous management agreement that has been prepared for the joint management of the protected areas between QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Amendments to the Nature Conservation Act in this bill will provide for an Indigenous joint management area over protected areas. This will then allow the commencement of the formal joint management of prescribed protected areas on Mulgumpin between QYAC and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

In relation to funding support for joint management arrangements on Mulgumpin, the Palaszczuk government has committed to six new positions, along with a number of community rangers on a project basis. These employment opportunities will provide benefits to the Quandamooka people and the broader Queensland community through an expanded and improved capacity to manage Mulgumpin. The funding will also provide 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 provide improved facilities to assist with management, including improved presentation of Quandamooka culture, conservation, visitor and fire management outcomes.

Joint management is one mechanism through which we can seek reconciliation with First Nations people here in Queensland, and in this case specifically the Quandamooka people. Not only does it provide a process for the return of ownership of the land to the original owners prior to their dispossession, it also delivers a framework so that we can work together to ensure the ongoing protection of the natural and cultural value of Mulgumpin. Joint management fundamentally will facilitate the enhanced presentation of cultural values on the island. People can still visit and enjoy the wonderful natural environment and also seek out experiences to learn more about the culture of the Quandamooka people and their future aspirations. I am incredibly proud and humbled to be one of three First Nations members in this place and part of a government that is committed to truth, treaty, reconciliation and healing going forward. I commend this bill to the House.