




Speech By
Sandy Bolton

MEMBER FOR NOOSA

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

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.46 am): The complexities with regard to the transference of land ownership and management between two entities have never been as apparent as they are in this bill. The primary objective of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill is to provide for the joint management of protected areas on Moreton Island, or Mulgumpin, by the state and Quandamooka people. In 2019 the Federal Court of Australia made a native title consent determination recognising Quandamooka native title rights on Mulgumpin. As part of this process the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation, the trustee under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service agreed to work towards joint management of Mulgumpin through an Indigenous management agreement. This is a confidential agreement that was agreed as part of the native title determination process.

It is complex, yes, with a number of key actions to occur in sequence before the joint management of protected areas with QYAC on Moreton Island is delivered. Firstly, the land must be made transferrable for it to be granted as freehold for the benefit of Aboriginal people. Then through a deed of grant QYAC can be appointed a grantee of the land. Complexities have been furthered—and we have heard about a lot of those in the chamber today and yesterday—via issues raised at the hearings and the adequacy of consultation in relation to the confidential nature of the IMA, which made it difficult for some participants to understand possible future impacts of the joint management arrangements and this bill. For example, a fifth-generation family-run business operating tourism and recreational services was concerned about the terms of the agreement already reached between QYAC and the state and how the land is proposed to be managed; in particular, those areas where general public access may be restricted. With no understanding of the terms of this agreement, businesses are left with uncertainty and confusion during what has already been an incredibly difficult time throughout the COVID pandemic.

Other concerns included confusion over access to land by residents, given the blurred demarcation lines with Brisbane City Council control of townships and properties. These details need to be clarified as confusion will only escalate if not addressed while matters are relatively straightforward. The Koorinal Landholders Association raised that once the legislation is passed the chief executive of QYAC may be entitled to grant certain leases, agreements, licences and permits which may threaten their ownership and businesses. Again, clarity and reassurance around these is needed.

When this bill came to my committee back in the 56th Parliament, confidential submissions outlined the depth of the concerns, with reports of activities that were not the role of the committee to investigate. I trust since then these have been resolved through the appropriate channels provided. With every complex bill, ultimately it is through simplification of the end outcome sought that determines how this can be achieved without detriment to others. Fear of uncertainty can be ameliorated by answering the questions and undertaking processes that are inclusive of all peoples who live on

Moreton Island. Given the significance of this bill, consultation amongst and with stakeholders and landowners about requirements for the preparation of the draft management plan, with additional accessible consultation activities, must be prioritised and continue into the future.

This bill is a really positive step forward, bringing all people together; however, the journey has been a bit rocky and can continue to be. While I fully support the intent and the wonderful vision that is seen, the lack of consultation and the outstanding questions need to be resolved. In my community we refer affectionately and with great respect to each other as being 'one mob'. Coming together united is not hindered by our backgrounds, culture or gender; rather, our disagreements come through our own unique viewpoints. These are to be celebrated. We need to keep working through these. I encourage all who live on and love Moreton to work on how any differences can be resolved and come together on common ground.

To the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, as well as my fellow members of the former State Development, Tourism, Innovation and Manufacturing Committee who examined this bill previously in the 56th Parliament, thank you. To the ministers, departments, all submitters and attendees to hearings, virtually and otherwise, again, thank you. This bill has travelled a very long journey. May all who are blessed to share this magical space care for it and celebrate it and each other well into the future.