



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

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

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.25 am): I rise to make a contribution on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management—Moreton Island) Amendment Bill 2020 which was introduced into this parliament on 3 December 2020 by the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. This bill is an important step towards reconciliation in my electorate through the facilitation of joint management of Mulgumpin by the Queensland government and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation.

There have been many speakers before me who have outlined the intention of the bill and how it has come about, but, primarily, the legislation before us today will formally recognise the Quandamooka people's native title rights on Mulgumpin, also known as Moreton Island. With this recognition, the Queensland government will work with the Quandamooka people to conserve the rich history and cultural value of Mulgumpin.

This legislation will enable the Quandamooka people to facilitate greater self-determination and bring awareness to visitors of the significant role the Quandamooka people have in the management of the island. Joint management of Mulgumpin will also create jobs for the Quandamooka people, some of whom reside within my electorate. The legislation will create opportunities for Indigenous cultural heritage information to be presented to visitors to the island by traditional owners from the Quandamooka community.

Constituents of my electorate understand the important place Mulgumpin holds for our Redcliffe community, our region and our state. I am sure many of my constituents have spent a lot of time on the island visiting with family, camping and experiencing the beauty that Mulgumpin has to offer, just as I have. It is not just people from Redcliffe who go over and enjoy the island, it is residents of the island and property owners who live elsewhere across the state who enjoy the island.

The memories so many of us have created on the island should be enough to want to save and protect it for future generations of Queenslanders to enjoy and appreciate. We should be able to appreciate it while also understanding the history and connection that the Quandamooka people have with Mulgumpin. As the minister for tourism outlined, while we acknowledge that there may be some challenges with the bill, there is a great opportunity for collaboration between our tourism operators and the Quandamooka people moving forward to enhance cultural tourism opportunities.

I am advised that permits have been reissued to tourist operators, with some new conditions, until 20 May 22. This will allow them the time they need to negotiate permits into the future. I know there are ongoing discussions and issues being worked through. I have met with some of the tourism operators who operate out of my local area of Redcliffe and go over to the island. I can say that they

have a genuine commitment to working with the Quandamooka people and ensuring that we can continue to grow our important tourism industry, support jobs and respect and acknowledge the cultural history and ongoing connection and rights of the Quandamooka people with the lands.

As the local member, I look forward to continuing to work with our First Nations people and our broader community as we move forward on this important journey. This bill will strengthen the importance of Mulgumpin within my electorate and I ask that everyone support this bill.