




Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2022

### **NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.28 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution also in respect of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I note from the explanatory notes the main intent of the bill is summed up in the first paragraph, that is, to deliver an election commitment to provide an extension to allow beekeeping on specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044.

My electorate has a very close connection to the beekeeping industry of Queensland in that Capilano Honey, which is a household name that we have all grown up with and become so familiar with, was actually established in Radford Street, Southport in 1953. It just happens to be around the corner from where I grew up. I was not born in 1953; I was born a few years after that.

**Mr Brown** interjected.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I am not taking interjections from you. I do have very fond memories, however, of the idyllic place where I grew up in Southport when what is now a concrete drain was a meandering creek through the back blocks of Egerton, Charlton and Radford streets which ran down into the Nerang River and then ultimately out into the Broadwater.

It was there that Bert and Tim Smith sold honey from out the front of their home via an honour box. I have to say that I have not seen too many honour boxes for selling produce out the front of homes around Southport in recent years. Just around the corner from the Smith's residence, along the same creek where many of those hives were placed, was a magnificent strawberry farm. As young children, some of my friends and I may have clambered up over the creek edges from time to time to help ourselves to a few strawberries.

What is important to note with regard to this legislation is that the beekeepers of Queensland have asked for an extension of their right to access national parks. This is important. My hope, however, is that the House will support the member for Bonney's amendment, which proposes that, rather than impose an extension of just 20 years, there be no limit to the extension. It is my hope that the House will support that amendment when it is moved later.

Beekeeping is an important industry. In his speech to the House the member for Burnett spoke about the importance of bees to the agriculture industry in Queensland. It is not just the fact that there are some 25,000 registered beekeepers or some 600,000 or 700,000 hives around the country—obviously that is important for the production of honey—but more importantly bees are incredibly important to the agriculture industry. They are important for not just honey production but for the pollination of important crops like macadamias and avocados that are planted each and every year around Queensland.

We will obviously be supporting the extension, but it is the sincere wish of the opposition that the extension limit of 20 years be lifted and there simply be no limit.