



Speech By  
**Sandy Bolton**


**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 March 2022

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Noosa Electorate**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.17 pm): Noosa is home to incredible youngsters who advocate with passion and hold us as representatives to account for our actions, or lack thereof. Through their efforts we find legislation and processes that need modernising to strengthen protections for our environment and its inhabitants. Spencer, on behalf of the glossy black-cockatoos, highlighted where critical remnant habitat that is essential for these feathered friends would be lost due to a 2011 development approval that did not require updated environmental clearances before proceeding. Then we have environmental authorities that only look within operational boundaries, ignoring impacts outside those boundaries, including on our schoolchildren and on roads that were not built to accommodate heavy haulage, and without any avenue for review after intensification of use.

Climate change is always a regular topic from my favourite Q&A session with our year 6s. They ask why we simply do not stop those things that contribute and why is Queensland's renewable energy target 50 per cent when other states have targets of 100 per cent? The subject of turtles is also prevalent, especially as to why we simply do not close off sections of the beach during their hatching season. Then there is the subject of sharks. With advocacy from Taylor as well members of Nippers to see an end to methods that destroy marine life, yet keep all safe, that will see greater understanding and innovation.

As I say to all of our youngsters who query, rally, protest or come into my office for work experience as trainees or as interns, there is so much we can do. Whether it is impacts to our natural spaces from unmanageable visitor numbers, polystyrene from pontoons from the recent flooding or building codes and laws that reduce sustainability or adaption, we can resolve them.

Another issue was how to share space in our rivers and national parks with consideration for each other. It just takes a lot of work and persistence. There can be legitimate constraints in our frameworks. However, that does not mean we cannot find solutions. For governments to adequately protect our environment and its inhabitants, we need to move beyond tick-and-flick processes that give a semblance of action.

The questions of our youngest should not result in obscure answers to investigations on their behalf. Instead, we need to build confidence in government, its processes and us as representatives by listening, querying the norm and answering honestly. These young Queenslanders are future decision-makers and leaders and we must set the standard for them to emulate. Meaningful change occurs by bringing diverse viewpoints together to work out how their concerns can be resolved. This will be essential in our journey along the path to treaty and to get to those better outcomes for their future.