



Speech By  
**Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**


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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

## **EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

Resumed from 16 November (see p. 3663), on motion of Mr Hinchliffe—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (11.49 am), continuing: I rise to continue my contribution to the debate of the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill enables the official recognition of a state fossil emblem, *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*. I have it on good authority that Cooper, Australia's largest dinosaur housed at the Eromanga Natural History Museum, ran a very close second to muttaburrasaurus. Putting aside the competition between Cooper and the muttaburrasaurus, they do actually have something in common: they are both found in the same Queensland catchment, the Lake Eyre catchment. That brings me to the consultation regulatory impact statement for the Queensland Lake Eyre Basin which has been released by the state Labor government. In his introductory speech the minister referred to the fact that the state fossil emblem will support economic development and palaeo tourism in the outback of Queensland—that is, provided the state Labor government regulatory environment allows this to continue. Those involved with tourism in the Lake Eyre Basin, where our fossils are found—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member, I will continue listening for about another 30 seconds, but I think you are going to need to demonstrate how this is relevant to the bill that is before the House.

**Ms LEAHY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, those who are involved in the fossil tourism industry in the Lake Eyre Basin are concerned that the regulatory impact statement will impact on the economic development of the region and palaeo tourism. Fossil digs are carefully excavated from the ground, often in areas where there are ancient riverbeds and flood plains. It is disappointing that this state Labor government seems to be on the one hand creating symbolism through this bill for fossils but on the other hand threatening the economic development—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat. I am just going to take some advice. Member, is the regulatory impact statement you are referring to directly related to this bill?

**Ms LEAHY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, the minister mentioned in his introductory speech—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, simply mentioning a word does not give people licence to pursue other issues in their contribution to the second reading debate. I will ask you again: is the regulatory impact statement directly related to the bill before the House?

**Ms LEAHY:** It does actually deal with tourism, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It may well deal with tourism, but does it relate directly to this bill before the House?

**Ms LEAHY:** It does deal with tourism and also the minister referred to the state fossil emblem and economic development—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Again, I am not finding this relevant to the long title of the bill. I would ask you to move on.

**Ms LEAHY:** In conclusion, I look forward to the Economics and Governance Committee visiting the Eromanga Natural History Museum, which houses Cooper, Australia's largest dinosaur. I do think that you will find that there will be a lot of discussion about this and I do believe that we will be showing Labor the door in '24.