




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution on behalf of the LNP to the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. The opposition will be supporting this bill. I start by thanking the committee for its work and its diligence in this matter. Whilst there was only a handful of submissions to this bill, it is important that we use it as an opportunity to highlight an important part of our history as a state and of future opportunities when it comes to tourism in this great state of ours.

I want to start by talking about the amendments to the Emblems of Queensland Act and why it is important. We know that the *muttaburrasaurus* was first discovered in Queensland in the early 1960s. I am mindful that there is a bit of conjecture in the House, so I will be broad with that. Its discovery allowed a proud country town in a beautiful part of Queensland to highlight its identity. They have done a great job in building their tourism reputation in this space. The animal lived in what is now north-eastern Australia sometime between 103 million and 112 million years ago, during the Cretaceous period.

The *muttaburrasaurus* was selected as Queensland's fossil emblem after a public vote. As the minister said, there were 12 short-listed candidates. This one received nearly 28 per cent of the vote. Second place came in at less than half of that, so that was a great response for the *muttaburrasaurus*. I note that the ACT, New South Wales, Western Australia and South Australia already have fossil emblems. This is important for us as a state, ensuring our identity is represented and celebrated. The selection of a fossil emblem will aid in the promotion of Queensland as a palaeo tourism destination, and I really want to focus my contribution on the diversity of Queensland's tourism offering.

There is no doubt that, post COVID, Queenslanders discovered what was in their backyard, and we should be so proud of our tourism offering. We should be so proud because of how diverse, unique and special that offering is. I want to see the 2032 Olympics Games used as an opportunity to focus minds and the investment opportunities that come with developing new tourism offerings for this state. We need a 20-year tourism vision that is broken into three parts: we need to be up-front about creating new opportunities and new investment in tourism between now and 2032; we need to promote our state and every square inch of it during those games opportunities that will come when the eyes of the world are on Queensland; and then the years following will be a golden opportunity for us, having used that brand to capitalise on that investment and on that awareness of Queensland's great tourism product.

Indigenous tourism is a golden opportunity for this state. Palaeo tourism is a golden opportunity for this state. When I talk about a 20-year tourism vision, it will be a great legacy—if we get it right—for the games because, while people are here and the eyes of the world are on Queensland, we need to celebrate every inch of Queensland. We need to make sure that emblems like the *muttaburrasaurus* are part of people's focus when they think about where to go in Queensland. As the minister said, palaeo tourism is a great opportunity which comes with a growth trajectory. There is a great opportunity to tap into people who have the flexibility to stay longer when they visit. When people stay longer, they spend more and they fall in love with the places they go—that is good news for us as a state.

I might touch briefly on the second part of the bill—that is, the amendments to the Crime and Corruption Act, the Parliamentary Services Act and the Parliament of Queensland Act. Having consulted with the Clerk and others, the changes to these acts address minor issues regarding matters such as participation in committee meetings by telephone, video or other electronic means; clarifications around the definition of the parliamentary precinct; and the Speaker being responsible for explanatory notes and human rights certificates for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker.

For clarity, I take the opportunity to read to the House the amendments contained in this bill as they pertain to the different acts. The bill amends the Crime and Corruption Act 2021 to retrospectively clarify that since 23 April 1998 members of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and its predecessor committees have been able to participate in committee meetings in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means. The bill amends the Parliamentary Services Act 1988 to clarify that the parliamentary precinct includes the Legislative Assembly chamber and its galleries when the Legislative Assembly is sitting. The bill amends the Parliamentary Services Act 1998 to provide that in a proceeding for an offence relating to a person's behaviour on the parliamentary precinct, despite section 8 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2021, evidence may be given in a court or other place out of the Legislative Assembly of a direction made or purportedly made by the Speaker or a person authorised to make such directions during the proceedings in the Legislative Assembly. The bill amends the Parliamentary Services Act 1988 to provide that the Speaker is to provide the human rights certificate and explanatory notes for by-laws and rules made by the Speaker under the Parliamentary Services Act. The bill amends the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to refine the process by which a member of the Legislative Assembly in a state of ill health has their request for a proxy vote noted to the assembly. The bill amends the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to retrospectively clarify that since 23 April 1998, members of parliamentary committees have been able to participate in committee meetings in person or by telephone, video or other electronic means. Finally, the bill amends the Parliament of Queensland Act 2021 to update a number of cross-references in the act to definitions that are explained and provided for in the Electoral Act 1992.

The LNP supports the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. We hope that, in doing so, particularly with reference to palaeo tourism, we send the clearest of signals that everybody in this House sees it as a great opportunity. I again reaffirm my strong support for ensuring that a tourism strategy focuses on the opportunity to develop outback tourism as a part of new offerings when it comes to the lead-up to the 2032 games. This will make sure that every part of Queensland can benefit from the games and that tourism is front and centre of what we do. Proud communities in Western Queensland towns, such as Muttaborra, that have a fine history and presence when it comes to dinosaurs, can be embraced and celebrated. By doing this, these communities will understand that this type of tourism matters to Queensland. It matters to our way of life. It matters to our identity. The opposition supports this bill.