




Speech By
Don Brown

MEMBER FOR CAPALABA

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EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (12.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that is before the House. In October last year, Queenslanders had their say on what dinosaur should be recognised as the state's official fossil emblem and they overwhelmingly chose the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*, a species that roamed across Queensland more than 100 million years ago. The skeletal remains of the dinosaur were first discovered 60 years ago north of Barcaldine, near the Outback town of Muttaburra, which is obviously its namesake. The discovery has been a major tourism drawcard for the town ever since. The government believes that by amending the act and recognising the muttaburrasaurus as our official fossil emblem we will put the spotlight back on Outback Queensland towns by showcasing what they have to offer and, in turn, generate valuable economic prosperity for the regions.

Queensland has a rich palaeontological history. Many of the Southern Hemisphere's key dinosaur finds are in Outback Queensland. Those locations account for an estimated 11 per cent of all Outback Queensland tourism, which equates to almost 122,000 visitors. Our new fossil emblem will be a unique representation that will help to showcase Queensland's rich palaeontological discoveries and history. The state's fossil emblem will support economic development and palaeo tourism in Outback Queensland.

When the Palaszczuk government was first approached to name an official fossil emblem, the minister formed a working group to determine which dinosaur species would be chosen. They worked alongside the community, including relevant cultural heritage groups and traditional owners. Twelve options were shortlisted and put to the vote. A four-month consultation process, from April to July last year, generated nearly 9,000 responses. The muttaburrasaurus was a clear winner after securing 27.55 per cent of the vote, which is a lot more than some of the primary votes of those opposite. On 22 October 2022, the Palaszczuk government rightly named the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* as Queensland's fossil emblem.

I call on all members to agree to amending the Emblems of Queensland Act 2005 as required to officially recognise the state's fossil emblem. The state fossil emblem will support existing Queensland government investment, including funding allocations to deliver a road map to grow dinosaur tourism across Outback Queensland. No extra cost is required; all associated costs of the proposed bill will come out of existing budget allocations. I commend the bill to the House.