




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.06 pm): I consider myself fortunate to be among the last to speak on this bill, the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, because I was able to absorb some of the debate last sitting week and talk about some aspects of it to the students and staff at Greenlands State School in my electorate of Southern Downs. It was wonderful to talk to the kids about how we had a dinosaur debate in parliament. That aroused the interest of the kids more than anything else we have done in the course of the year in this parliament.

I would like to reflect, as many others have, on my experience of seeing dinosaur fossils and being a dinosaur tourist here in Queensland. I had the great fortune, among my many Air Force postings when I was in the Australian Defence Force, to be assigned to the then governor-general and later as the then governor of Queensland's aide-de-camp. I have very happy memories of us flying into regional Queensland on lots of visits. One of the best was when we went to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs and saw Dave and Judy Elliott on their property outside of Winton.

Mr Madden interjected.

Mr LISTER: I take that interjection from the member for Ipswich West.

Mr Madden: And a lovely man.

Mr LISTER: Yes, a lovely man. Great Queenslanders. It was great to see, even at that relatively early stage—it was about 16 years ago—that there were scientists there working on exposing the fossils and the bones and learning about them. It was wonderful to learn about and see these fossils. I know that the governor at the time, Quentin Bryce, took great delight in being a visitor there.

Central to the discussion of this bill has been tourism and the importance of fostering and encouraging tourism to Western Queensland to avail ourselves of the treasures that are there in dinosaur form. Obviously I would love to see that facilitated. I urge the government to make sure that they spend what is required to keep the roads in good order so tourists who are going out to see these treasures have a good experience and do not go back and say, 'Don't go out that way, there are too many potholes.' It is tough enough with the danger of hitting kangaroos on the road without having to have your car bashed apart on some of the roads due to potholes. I am sure my honourable friend the member for Warrego would share in that concern of mine.

I support the amendments to the Parliamentary Service Act. It is important that there are measures to prosecute misconduct in the gallery. It is a great privilege of our House to be here and know that we are protected from capricious acts by strangers. I commend the bill to the House.