




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to support the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 and I do so proudly. Before I kick off my own contribution, I wish to reflect on a few contributions we have heard so far, particularly that of the member for Logan, the chair of the committee. He went through in great detail and with such passion the extraordinary story that brought us here today, well supported by his fellow members including the member for Hervey Bay.

The story of Doug and Pearl Langdon is amazing. I will not repeat the history that other members have gone through. However, I will say that the tenacity, the instinct, the gut feeling, the ability and the dedication to see it through in terms of the difficulties of getting the fossils sorted and transporting them to Brisbane, and the dedication to the people of their town, of their community and of Queensland in making sure this was actually a public discovery and not their own form of self-promotion was extraordinary. It is to their credit that, as humble as they were and are, they did not want that. However, I think they deserve the credit they are getting in this bill.

I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House and for promoting it with his tourism hat on. I want to express that there are exciting opportunities for Queensland more broadly and for Western Queensland in particular building on the dinosaur trail in Outback Queensland, including the Australian Age of Dinosaurs in Winton, the Dinosaur Stampede National Monument in Winton, the Kronosaurus Korner in Richmond, the Flinders Discovery Centre and museum in Hughenden, the Eromanga Natural History Museum, the Outback at Isa, the Riversleigh Fossil Discovery Centre in Mount Isa, the Riversleigh World Heritage site, the Marine Reptile Fossil Display at Boulia, the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre in Isisford just outside of Longreach and of course the *Muttaburrasaurus* Interpretation Centre in Muttaburra. Having mentioned Richmond, I also wanted to pay tribute to the contribution from the member for Mermaid Beach. I think his personal history is extraordinary and I genuinely appreciated his contribution and insight. I spoke to him briefly and he promised to tell me more when we find time to catch up for a drink, so, member for Mermaid Beach, I look forward to hearing more history.

Having gone through the benefits for Western Queensland and where this history started, as the proud member for Stafford this is not just about the Outback but about all of Queensland. Like the iconic Ekka, this is something that brings country and city together. My experience comes through the Queensland Museum and I pay particular respect to the role that the Queensland Museum played in getting us to where we are. I want to give a particular shout-out to Alan Bartholomai, who was the Queensland Museum director, and the then Queensland Museum curator, Ralph Molnar, for not only making this happen but for being part of the naming process to what we now know as *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni*.

Last night in a different capacity I said that when it came to graduating year 12 students it was not my motivation for getting into public life but one of the benefits is the ability to embarrass your children, so I will now get to do it again when it comes to my son. I spent many years at the Queensland

Museum learning about *Muttaburrasaurus* and loving the education of my son in learning about dinosaurs and having a love of dinosaurs. I was a single parent at the time and made sure that he and I both had an annual pass. We spent many a weekend learning about it with the interactive displays. Other members like the member for Bundaberg have referred to the stampede wall and the importance of that in our state's history. As my son got into prep and could read for himself, seeing his learning and his engagement and inspiration that the Queensland Museum gave him was fantastic. I should, as a sidenote, give a shout-out that his second favourite museum experience was when Thomas the Tank Engine came to the Ipswich Railway Museum. Member for Bundamba, is that just in your patch or in Ipswich?

Mr Madden: No! It is in my patch.

Mr SULLIVAN: Forgive me, member for Ipswich West. I did not mean to cause a stir in the House, so forgive me. Just before anyone in the opposition tries to raise a matter of relevance, one of the great ways to enjoy the dinosaur trail in Western Queensland is to catch the *Spirit of the Outback* out there, so do not say, Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, that I cannot make anything relevant.

Going back to the Queensland Museum at South Bank, my son and I loved it when he was a toddler and a young boy. We would find a spot where he could see ferries going down the river, buses coming through the Cultural Centre, trains coming along the South Brisbane line and of course the dinosaurs, so that was an absolute joy. While I would not have thought of it at the time, what a privilege to come the full circle and play a small part in having the privilege of representing my community in making the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* our state dinosaur emblem. It is fantastic.

In his contribution the minister made the point that symbols matter, so having an inclusive and really representative emblem is important. I think it is important just generally for the next generation of kids coming through in their education in the lead-up to the Olympics in terms of selling our identity and building on our identity in creating tourism opportunities for those intrastate for Queenslanders to get out west, for interstate tourists and international tourism. I think it is a really important step, so I thank the minister for that. It is brilliant to see. To be fair, I thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House. I know with his other hat he deals with and dedicates a lot of time to the issue of legacy. I think this is a pretty good one.

In terms of the technical issues, the previous speaker, the member for Surfers Paradise, reflected that there are technical but important changes to both the way this parliament operates and the way our committees operate. The changes regarding the committee system, including the CCC Act, are really important and reflect the modernity of our committee system and, in my reading of the legislation, clarify and confirm existing practices rather than introducing revolutionary change. I think it is really good. It is a practical way that committees work. All of us who went through those committee hearings during COVID realise that that is even more important, so it is really important to get these changes through to make sure that there is no doubt as to how that is meant to operate. Likewise with the technical changes to the parliamentary precinct legislation, I think they are sensible and worth while—technical and administrative sure, but important—and so I put my name to that.

I again thank the minister for bringing this bill forward, his team in his office and the department. I also thank the committee. My reflection of the debate to date is that it seemed it was a real collegiate effort with teamwork. That is a really good sign given an indication from the chair that there might be more work for that committee to do in terms of what we could do further in promoting the interest in dinosaur tourism and related issues. I thank all of the members of the committee for doing a good job on behalf of us, because that is what parliamentary committees are.

Mr Tantari interjected.

Mr SULLIVAN: I take the interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. I will not refer to his committee as the 'dinosaur committee'—just yet. Thanks to the committee staff and all submitters who got us to where we are today. I am really proud. I do sometimes talk about legislation to the kids at home quite genuinely when they are engaged. This is one where I look forward to doing so as well.