




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

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EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.47 pm): I rise to be a part of this bill. We are talking about the muttaburrasaurus, and this is a fantastic opportunity for us to explain how important the region I belong to is.

Mr Boothman: The home of fossils.

Mr MILLAR: Yes, it is the home of fossils and I could be a fossil right now, I suppose. I want to thank everybody in Queensland who voted on making the muttaburrasaurus the emblem. This is not just about the muttaburrasaurus; it is about the town of Muttaborra. For people who may not know, if you want to go to the dead centre of Queensland, point to Muttaborra. That is the dead centre of Queensland. It is an amazing town. It has a primary school and a population of about 80 people.

Mr Stevens: An historical hospital.

Mr MILLAR: Yes, I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, who is a Richmond boy and knows a bit about the muttaburrasaurus. There is a fantastic replica of the kronosaurus in Richmond, which Johnny Wharton, the mayor of Richmond, likes to show me. I thank everybody who voted on this. It is an emblem which means a lot to Queensland and it means a lot to Outback Queensland. What it means to us and what it means to regional Queensland is an opportunity for tourism. Yes, we have got agriculture. We have got cattle, sheep and wool, but our third commodity out there is tourism. Tourism plays a significant role in making sure that we have a community that is surviving not only in Muttaborra but in Longreach, Blackall and Winton. I would also like to—

Mrs Frecklington: Muttaborra sheep show.

Mr MILLAR: The Muttaborra sheep show is a fantastic event. I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. It is a great event. I would also like to recognise the person who discovered the muttaburrasaurus, Doug Langdon. Doug has done a fantastic job in discovering it, but there are other people out there who have discovered more dinosaurs and it has become a great tourism trail. I think we absolutely need to take the opportunity to make sure our tourism industry benefits from this. I see the Minister for Tourism across the chamber. He understands what we are trying to do with Outback tourism. We obviously have to shift our tourism opportunities to not only domestic but also international. One thing I have always tried to drive—I see the member for Cairns; he and I have talked about it—is our reef and beef tourism. Let's bring the international tourism from China, South-East Asia, America and Germany into Cairns and places like that to get the reef aspect and then move them straight out to the Outback to give them the real outback experience. Recognising what we are doing today with the emblem helps that, and I am thankful for that.

I think it is important that we also recognise the fantastic contributors to Outback tourism. A good mate of mine, David Elliott, from Winton has the Age of Dinosaurs and has done a fantastic job. Of course, he is being recognised as a great Queenslander. He has put great effort into making sure that

tourism and the Outback is recognised. The opportunity it provides for our economy is fantastic. I would also like to recognise a lot of other people out there, like Smithy from Longreach. I recognise the Kinnon family, who have gone through a tough time over the last six months. We lost the paddle steamer in the Thomson River. They have been able to resurrect that out of the Thomson River and they will be using it as a display. They obviously cannot float the paddle steamer again. We have real pioneers in tourism in Western Queensland. We have the Big Red Bash and the Birdsville Races. We have the Betoota pub back up and going again as well, which is fantastic. I would also like to recognise the efforts which have been put into Boulia with Rick Britton, and Robbie Dare with the roadhouse that burnt down about four years ago. He has that re-established out at Bedourie. All of this plays a big part in that tourism package for Western Queensland. We are going to go through droughts and we are going to go through low commodity prices, but one thing that puts cash into Western Queensland is the tourism industry. Recognising the emblem as something from our area helps that. Young people and young families want to come across.

I would like to thank everybody who voted for the muttaburrasaurus. I would also encourage everybody here to head to Muttaborra. It is a great town. It has a nice pub. It has a lovely community feel. When I was a young bloke, when I was at the ABC as a young rural reporter, we used to have to go and play Muttaborra in Rugby Union. The problem there was that, back in those days, in the early nineties, Muttaborra was full of Kiwi shearers who could play Rugby Union. It was very hard at six o'clock in the morning to get blokes on the bus to go to Muttaborra to play potential All Blacks trial games. I will give it to those Maori shearers of Muttaborra: they were tough, they were hard and they did beat us. It was always a tough ask, but—

Mr Hinchliffe: What was the team nickname? The Dinosaurs?

Mr MILLAR: I am not sure, but we used to call them the Muttaborra All Blacks. It was the same in Barcaldine with the shearers there. Playing for the Longreach Jumbucks in my young days, I did get towelled up quite a few times. I thank everybody for voting for the muttaburrasaurus.

Mrs Gerber: What is a muttaburrasaurus, can you tell me?

Mr MILLAR: It is a dinosaur. I thank everybody for voting. Also, can you support Western Queensland tourism? Get out there. It might be a bit hot at the moment, but certainly in April, May or June, if you are looking for a holiday, please come out to Western Queensland.