




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.50 pm): I would also like to thank the committee members for all their work. I would like to thank all the submitters. I thank the member for Kurwongbah and the member for Gregory for all their hard work on this very important piece of legislation we have before us today. It is very important to look into these matters throughout the state. Whilst I do not actually have any stock routes in the Gold Coast region or the Gold Coast hinterland, we do have some dairy farmers.

Mr Lister: You have avocado routes.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Not in the Theodore electorate, unfortunately.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: No, the Coomera Connector. In all seriousness, I want to focus on a couple of aspects of the bill and something which has come home to roost in my area—vegetation management areas, or VMAs. I want to reiterate the comments made by the member for Burnett when it comes to making sure that we have accurate mapping. It is certainly something which is coming up in my area on regular occasions that residents will dispute mapping of a certain type of vegetation on their properties when they can clearly demonstrate that it is not that type of vegetation; it is not a remnant vegetation, and it is not even regrowth vegetation. It could potentially be giant privet growing along the creek areas. Those who are aware of what giant privet does would know that it causes major erosion because it does not hold the soil like certain native species do. Some of my residents are very frustrated with what is going on in the Gold Coast region when it comes to dealing with these issues. They say to me regularly that there needs to be far better mapping when it comes to these issues to ensure that the right vegetation is in place to protect the riverbanks.

The Coomera River is one of the best water quality rivers in South-East Queensland. I think it got a 'B' rating just recently. It did slip back slightly on previous results, but it is one of the cleanest rivers on the Gold Coast. To maintain that water quality level, we need to make sure that mapping in these areas is crucial and accurate to ensure that the run-off is greatly limited.

Ensuring accurate mapping is one part, but I want to reiterate some of the comments that the member for Southern Downs highlighted during his contribution in regards to regional newspapers being the lifeblood of our regional communities. Regional newspapers rely on advertising. The member for Bonney may remember that we used to have a newspaper called the *Gold Coast Sun*, but it fell by the wayside because, unfortunately, advertising funds were greatly reduced over a period. These newspapers in regional towns are the lifeblood of those regional towns. They are the information source for a lot of residents who actually read articles about what is happening in their local areas. Therefore it is so crucial that advertising gazettes from the government are regularly put out in those areas.

Over recent years, the pandemic really did hurt these newspapers; it sent quite a few of them almost to the wall. In regards to the *Gold Coast Sun* in my area, the lack of advertising and the lack of people taking them up destroyed the ability of that newspaper to gain revenue. Therefore, as I say, it is

very crucial that we support these regional newspapers. We support them in Gregory and we support them in places like Lockyer, Southern Downs, Warrego and Nanango. They are truly crucial in these areas.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Maryborough. Maryborough is a very important place—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Member, I ask you to resume your seat. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House, the time allocated for consideration of the bill has now expired.