




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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## **EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I recommend that members of the House look at the report presented to the House by the committee. The secretariat has done a wonderful job. It contains colour photos of all sorts of things. It really is outstanding. It is report No. 52 of the Economics and Governance Committee. It is online. Members should access that and, of course, share it with all of their community.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** We are happy to autograph some of the copies, of course. The Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill proposes to amend the Emblem of Queensland Act 2005 to officially recognise the *Muttaburrasaurus langdoni* dinosaur as the state's fossil emblem. It also amends the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 for particular purposes. To be honest, the interest is, of course, in the muttaburrasaurus.

The trip the committee did out west was an absolutely outstanding trip that we all thoroughly enjoyed, and the people in Western Queensland thoroughly enjoyed our attendance. They really are beside themselves when it comes to these sorts of things. I have with me some brochures that I picked up while I was in Western Queensland. They are all to do with the Barcaldine region, the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum and the Winton area. I also have the *Australian Age of Dinosaurs Journal*. I have some other wonderful brochures here. I am going to be using these. The committee is going back out to Western Queensland to have a further look at the tourism opportunities in that area, and I will use these in my research in that regard.

I come back to the matter at hand, the muttaburrasaurus. I note that the Barcaldine Regional Council has referred to the value the emblem would add to Outback Queensland tourism offerings. They said—

Each of our communities, whether it is the existing dinosaur triangle or the very smallest of central-western communities in Muttaburra ... has a unique and distinctly impressive attraction piece.

That is absolutely true. We are going to have a look at all of that and report back to the House sometime in the middle of next year.

As other members have mentioned, the day Pearl Langdon was there with us was a very proud day for Pearl. Indeed, I was standing in the interpretation centre in Muttaburra, and Pearl was relating to me what it all meant. She was giving me the background, the history and the rundown, if you like. I remember at the time wishing that I had started a recording of Pearl telling me what happened, because she was going into such detail. Fortunately for us, Pearl was able to retell that story in the hearing. I would like to read into the record Pearl Langdon's recollection, as shared with the committee on our

visit to Muttaborra, about the discovery by her dearly departed husband, Doug Langdon, of the muttaburrasaurus. It is an absolute cracker of an account and worth hearing. She said—

When he first saw the formation on the ground he was just riding off so he went on a bit further and it got the better of him and he said, 'No, I'm going back to have a look.' He got off his pony this time, had a look and brought home this piece. He said it definitely was not a stone to him. He said it was definitely a bone. He came home and he said, 'I've found a dinosaur,' and he showed me this piece of what looked like a rock to me or stone but he said, 'Don't drop it.' That is when he said, 'We'll send it down to the museum in Brisbane.'

At the time we had been having some good rain. Alan Bartholomai was the director of the museum then. He passed away a year after Doug. He said, 'Can you get photos of it?', and Doug said, 'I don't know because of the floods.' Anyhow, Doug got out there. He has had to swim the pony a couple of small channels, got the photos and then by the time we got home, sent them to Longreach to develop them and back, just communication between our mail service, and by the time Alan got the photos he said, 'You've got something.' This is back in late October, early November, December.

This was back in early November, December 1962, to clarify for the two members who spoke a short while ago. She went on to say—

Alan said, 'We're coming up.' Doug said, 'You can't come up', because the wet season had started. They came up in April—

1963—

and that is when they found the bones. Doug did not find the head. It was when Alan and the others were moving some of the sandstone around that they found this big head. It looked like a big piece of stone to them at the start, but it turned out to be the head. Doug was so proud they found the head. ... Then they had to use a dentist drill—many dentist's drills—to try to clean it up. It took a long time then to find out a name for it.

I forget, I think someone said about 1983 they named it Muttaborrasaurus langdoni. Doug put his hand in the air, 'Muttaborra, you're on the map!'

Thank you, Pearl, and thank you, Doug Langdon. Muttaborra is definitely on the map now. I most passionately commend the bill to the House. I think it is a wonderful outcome for Western Queensland and, indeed, for Queensland as a whole. I look forward to going out with the committee in the new year to do some more research on opportunities for tourism in Western Queensland.