




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.39 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to support the naming of the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni* as the Queensland state emblem. I had the pleasure of visiting the Muttaborra Interpretation Centre as recently as this year. I met Mutt and, while I have had the pleasure of meeting many of Queensland's fossils, both here in the chamber with the LNP and across the beautiful Queensland Outback, it was wonderful to see Mutt take out the gong as one of the 12 fossil candidates in the public voting process. The voting process happened in 2022 and now the muttaburrasaurus joins nine other unique icons and emblems that represent Queensland.

In Queensland, the dinosaur triangle is a historic jewel. It is home to 98-million-year-old history, along with the iconic Outback towns and exceptional tourism experiences. I have had the privilege of experiencing firsthand the Australian Age of Dinosaurs in Winton, which showcases the Dinosaur Stampede. I have also frequented Richmond's—coronasaurus corner?

Mr Stevens: It's 'Kronosaurus'.

Ms BOYD: Thank you. I should have practised some of these names. The member for Mermaid Beach is a Richmond boy, born and bred, and he is helping me out. It is Kronosaurus Korner. I appreciate all of the support from the member for Mermaid Beach.

Kronosaurus Korner, with 1,150 unique fossil specimens, is the nation's premier marine fossil museum. The Flinders Discovery Centre in Hughenden is a real pleasure. I am counting down the days until my next visit to officially open the extension to that phenomenal facility. The redevelopment there doubles the size of the centre, which will mean an even better visitor experience on offer. I had a sneak peek during the construction process and I cannot wait to see firsthand the finished product.

While I have not met Cooper personally, our state's largest dinosaur—it is the size of a basketball court—I have heard much about him and the campaign to get him an improved home at the Eromanga Natural History Museum. I also look forward to checking out that special treasure. While I am talking about Eromanga and the Natural History Museum, I place on record my congratulations to both Stuart Mackenzie and Robyn Mackenzie for their ongoing work in this space. Recently they were awarded OAMs. Stuart does a wonderful job as the mayor of Quilpie. I place on record my congratulations to both Stuart and Robyn Mackenzie for that fantastic accolade, which acknowledges their longstanding commitment in this space.

Each year, 135,000 visitors flock to the Outback to check out those historic icons, accounting for 17.6 per cent of our state's gross regional product. We know that those tourists are cashed up. Visitors to the dinosaur economy spend seven per cent more than non-fossil tourists to the regions, making a serious and valued contribution to the local communities. Of course, the silver lining during the COVID pandemic was that people came to those destinations in droves. They came to Western Queensland, and the visitor economy saw a boost of 30 per cent in some instances. The Palaszczuk government has a strong record of investing in palaeo tourism and supporting the tourism visitor experience. I am pleased to see that the committee will be doing more work to hopefully strengthen the sector into the future.

I place on record my admiration for the 80 individuals who make up the population of Muttaborra. Not only have the mighty Muttaborrians lobbied to have an engaging and informative fossil tourism attraction; they have also secured the necessary infrastructure to go around it. Anyone who has visited the town of Muttaborra will appreciate that it is somewhat off the beaten track. When I first visited the town, I had travelled along the Flinders Highway from Prairie and then down the Hughenden Muttaborra Road. It was on this road, without any phone reception at all, while driving over one of the very many cattle grids, that the wall of my driver-side rear tyre blew out and needed to be changed on the unsealed road. Thankfully, I did not have to lie down on that unsealed road, because a B-double, driven by Wes Schultz from the Hughenden Tyre Centre, pulled up. Wes came to my rescue and changed the tyre for me. I place on the record my unwavering appreciation to Wes, who did it like an absolute pro and got me out of that tight spot. Nonetheless, by the time I got to Muttaborra I was covered from head to toe in dust and dirt. During subsequent visits, Muttaborra has felt very much like a safe place of refuge for me.

While this legislation is historic and significant in its nature, I want to draw special attention to the stakeholder and committee comments that specifically speak to the process in determining, designing and communicating about the emblem and also the way that we use, promote and market the emblem into the future. We will have one shot at the design of this emblem, and the importance of getting that right cannot be understated. Our palaeo history is truly special, and being able to promote it as a tourism opportunity is something that I have become quite passionate about as I have explored and learned about these places, the fossils and their history.

The other week I was preparing to travel to Winton. Before I left Pine Rivers, I had a conversation that really stuck with me. I was asked where I was travelling to next and I said I was going to Winton. Their remark was, 'Oh, isn't that where the dinosaurs are?' I took great delight in highlighting all of the other locations that have phenomenal palaeo history and tourism opportunities. In that moment I appreciated that I had become a bit of a promoter of the sector and, I confess, proudly so.

While these stories make up the fabric of Outback Queensland, which is absolutely and truly unique, I also place on record my appreciation for the people of the west. It is the people of the west who make your experience there truly enjoyable. They are always ready to welcome people. I encourage anyone who has not been out west to check out all of the wonders that we have in our palaeo tourism sector to definitely pack up the car and get out there, because they are guaranteed to have a good time exploring our palaeo history in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government will always support and invest in this important sector. We support each and every Queenslanders, including our state's oldest residents. I commend the bill to the House.