




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

EMBLEMS OF QUEENSLAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.48 am), continuing: In part 2 of my speech on this bill, I would like to emphasise the tour that the Economics and Governance Committee did to North-West Queensland to further investigate matters in relation to the appropriate dinosaur emblem for Queensland. Being a Richmond boy, I embarked on that tour as a passionate supporter of the *Kronosaurus queenslandicus*. We toured Winton, Longreach, Muttaborra and those areas.

We arrived to Winton to see a fantastic Age of Dinosaurs tourism facility that is doing a lot of great work in that area, in conjunction with the Queensland Museum, run by David Elliott, inspired by David Elliott, and the idea of an emblem was inspired by David Elliott. In fact, he told me that he nominated a particular dinosaur on the basis that it had to be a Queensland-only dinosaur, except we know that the muttaburrasaurus is not a Queensland-only dinosaur. However, we also know that the koala is not exclusive to Queensland and that happens to be our emblem as well.

We were well-served in terms of our hearings out there. We had great support from the local mayors who are involved in this tourism aspect which is growing rapidly out there. We had Councillor Sean Dillon from the Barcaldine shire. We had Councillor Gavin Baskett from the Winton shire and, wonderfully as well, Councillor Jane McNamara drove down from Hughenden to Winton to specifically support the hearings as Hughenden is an important part of the Dinosaur Trail up in North-West Queensland. Unfortunately, we were not able to get to Richmond. I spoke to the excellent mayor up there who has done a great job for tourism and palaeo tourism, Mayor John Wharton, and I have assured him, as the committee has agreed, we will do further tours into palaeo tourism early next year.

The highlight, from my point of view, of the investigation by the committee was our trip on the final day out to Muttaborra where we saw a magnificent facility in a small country town. They have done a wonderful job in promoting and protecting the dinosaur tourism aspect of North-West Queensland. Probably the highlight of all of that was the speech that Mrs Pearl Langdon gave about the discovery of a muttaburrasaurus by her husband, Doug—I think in 1963—

Mr Power: 1962.

Mr STEVENS: I will take on board the chair's interjection. He said it was 1962; I thought it was 1963, but it could have been over the Christmas period when the big wet set in. It was a wonderful achievement, as Mrs Langdon said, and this turned my opinion around completely in relation to this being the appropriate emblem for Queensland—the *Muttaborrasaurus langdoni* named after the original discovery by Doug Langdon. Mrs Langdon gave a very emotive address to the committee that certainly inspired my support for the muttaburrasaurus to be the dinosaur emblem of Queensland. There is one rider on that: she insisted that when the emblem finally gets designed—and I take it somebody from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet will be designing it—it must be a proper dinosaur emblem and not some caricature from Barney Rubble days or something like that. She wants a proper dinosaur emblem so that we can grow palaeo tourism. We certainly will be doing that as a committee next year—

I gave that promise to Mayor Wharton—and I look forward to further investigation of palaeo tourism in Queensland.