




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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**AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT  
BILL**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.29 pm): I rise to speak on the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will choose a shorthand title and call it the 'dog and fish bill', which makes it easier. In all seriousness, it is a massive bill. A lot of work has gone into it. I want to congratulate the minister and his departmental staff on producing this monumental work that I know will have a positive impact on agriculture, fisheries and pet ownership throughout the state.

I start by paying tribute to Lizzie Wingrove, a Bancroft local, who is here today. She turned 15 years old yesterday so happy birthday, Lizzie! At 7½ she was the victim of a very serious dog attack. If you look at her mother Veronica's submission on the bill you will see the photos that were taken following that attack. Lizzie is incredibly brave. She has undergone facial surgery and has worked hard over many years to deal with the impact of that attack. I also pay tribute to Veronica. For years she has fought to get improvements in the law so that in such situations her family is safe and secure and to make sure that other families are safe and secure. Veronica was an exemplary witness during our inquiry into this bill. I thank her for coming along today.

It is clear that this law will improve community safety because it will introduce tough measures around dangerous dogs. It will ban certain breeds: the Dogo Argentino, the Fila Brasileiro, the Japanese Tosa, the American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier and the Perro de Presa Canario. These breeds are already banned from being imported into Australia. Our laws will work closely with federal laws. I reject the LNP assertion that it will be difficult to identify those banned dogs. I point out that the federal agencies have been doing it for ages. They have a system for identifying them. I know from personal knowledge that councils also have pretty good systems to identify banned breeds.

The bill will introduce tougher penalties for people who own dogs that attack or cause serious harm. It will be an offence to not keep a dog under effective control in a public place. Very significantly, councils will now face less red tape when they need to take action against dangerous dogs. Specifically, they will be able to immediately issue a destruction order on a dog that has caused grievous bodily harm or death and, very importantly, they will not face long delays in the destruction order process if the case goes through appeals and to QCAT as it will place limitations on appeals to QCAT. With the current appeal process, a dog can be in accommodation for over 12 months while the case is sorted out. There is no doubt that the improved measures in the bill will mean people will feel safer.

I believe that these laws will result in the better management of fisheries in Queensland. We need to manage our fisheries, which are resources that are held in common by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. We need to manage our fisheries effectively and efficiently for future generations. That is an overriding principle that is absolutely essential. In our report, we noted that there are national and international obligations, such as wildlife trade operation approvals under Commonwealth legislation. There is a UNESCO report from 2022 that recommends independent onboard monitors, IOMs, for more fisheries in Queensland. We are talking about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. If we do not do that we face the possibility that wildlife trade operation export approvals could be revoked.

It is very important to put IOMs on certain fishing vessels. I think IOM cameras are the best way to go. They are cost effective and easy to install and maintain, especially when compared to having someone on the boat observing what is going on. I welcome the recognition of the difficulties that Queensland conditions can impose on those boats and the commitment to improve the privacy protections in relation to the use of video monitors. I thank the minister for working with us on the recommendations. It is a massive bill. We made a small number of recommendations to see if we could improve how this operates. Once again I thank the minister and I commend the bill to the House.