




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts) (11.49 am): I rise to speak in support of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2). I will be focusing my contribution on the bill's proposed amendment to the Place Names Act 1994 to update its provisions for more efficient processes and to align with societal expectations on the naming of public places. To hear the member for Callide's contribution has made me think about a couple of things that have happened in the past and I wonder whether he supports the idea of these items being of cultural significance and historical significance to him.

In 2020 our government worked with Darumbal people to rename the offensive Black Gin Creek to Dundula, meaning gum tree in the language of the local Darumbal people. Darumbal elder Aunty Sally Veve spoke of the history behind the name Black Gin Creek, and I hope the member for Callide is paying attention. She shared the painful reminder that the place held for Darumbal people. She was reported to have said that places called 'Black Gin Creek' were areas commonly known to be places where Aboriginal women were raped and murdered by non-Indigenous men. Is that the culture and the history that the member for Callide believes should be protected? They were his words. They are the words that the member for Callide was focused on.

Mr HEAD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to that imputation and ask that the member withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I might need to get advice on that. Sorry, member for Callide, I did not hear that it was directed to you. Member for Algester, you will need to withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw. When speaking about places like Black Gin Creek in Central Queensland that was renamed, Aunty Sally Veve said—

They are places that hold memories of terrible pain and suffering not just for Aboriginal women but also Aboriginal men, because these things happened to their family and they are not forgotten.

These elders understand this. We see the name Black Gin Creek in different places across Queensland. If that is the history and the culture that some members opposite believe should be protected, then I think they need to have a good look at themselves.

This bill makes public consultation on a place-naming proposal more inclusive and efficient. For example, the bill removes the requirement for place-naming submissions to be in writing. The place-naming process will be more accessible, including for those with certain disabilities or for whom English is a second language. We know from the experience I have just shared about Aunty Sally Veve that that same group, Darumbal, were able to recently see some changes to two mountains in Central Queensland. One was renamed Baga, after formerly being known as Mount Jim Crow, which was thought to be in reference to US racial segregation. The other was renamed Gai-i, after formerly being

known as Mount Wheeler, named after Trooper Frederick Wheeler who historians have linked to several massacres in the district. This a history that some of those opposite, including the member for Callide given his contribution, believe should be protected.

Mr HEAD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again take personal offence to that imputation and ask the member to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Algester, it would facilitate the debate if you could withdraw.

Ms ENOCH: I withdraw. I think everybody in this House agrees that some of these very offensive and racist placenames represent a certain time in history and a culture that should not be of this time. That is why this bill is so important. The story, unfortunately, is not confined to just one location. We are seeing stories right across the state where groups of people have to be reminded of a very terrible history every day. They have to be reminded of massacres. They have to be reminded of women being raped and murdered. They have to be reminded of that by these names. That is why this bill is so important and that is why I support this bill. I commend it to the House.