



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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MORETON BAY MARINE PARK ZONING PLAN

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (12.17 pm): I rise to speak about the government's Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan. I call on the government to make one simple change to its policy: to allow recreation fishers one line per person in the green zones, the best fishing areas of the bay. As a marine science graduate and member of the LNP, I support the general concept of a marine park for Moreton Bay. By that I mean a bay in which the environment is protected for future generations and in which recreational fishers can responsibly fish. However, I am afraid that Labor's plan considers only the former at the cost of the latter.

This government does not care about what recreational fishers think or feel. In fact, this week Mr Garrett and the Pew foundation are planning no-take zones for all offshore waters in Queensland. If that were to take place, it seems likely that no-take zones would also extend to Moreton Bay and other bay areas. If the government continues to allow extreme green elements to dominate its policy formation on the environment, it will not be long before the fishers of Cleveland and all coastal areas of Queensland will not be able to wet a line in their bays and offshore areas.

I do not support the way this government has permanently locked out recreational fishers from all the best fishing areas in Moreton Bay—the green zones. The government's politically motivated green zones form part of a master plan that green groups have to turn the whole of Moreton Bay into a green zone. If the motives are based on science, why did the government overturn its earlier decision to make a green zone at Amity Point on North Stradbroke Island? It was only after a public outcry by the people of Amity Point to Labor members that it reversed this decision. A more extensive monitoring program of fish stocks is obviously needed so that future decisions can be based truly on science and not on green preferences nor spooked Labor Party members.

The government is yet to produce credible science to conclude that recreational fishers are endangering fish stocks in Moreton Bay. Therefore, I call on the government to stop its demonising of recreational fishers and prove that it is not planning to close Moreton Bay. That can be done by allowing one line per person in the green zones.

(Time expired)