



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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MORETON BAY MARINE PARK ZONING PLAN

Dr ROBINSON (Cleveland—LNP) (11.47 am): I rise to speak about problems that have emerged with the government's Morton Bay marine park plan. Cracks are already appearing in this rushed, piecemeal, thrown-together, politically driven pre-election plan. The problems need to be addressed immediately. I foreshadow that the plan will need serious revision in the future to get the balance right.

Before highlighting a few problems, I would like to restate the LNP's commitment to an effective marine park plan for Moreton Bay—a plan that protects all forms of marine life, that allows for sustainable and responsible fishing, that is based on science rather than green preference deals made on election eve and that works for all users of the bay. Several key components of the government's ill-considered plan need addressing. Firstly, there is the demonising of recreational fishers by this government. The permanent exclusion of recreational fishers from the best fishing areas of Moreton Bay without due consultation and without a sound scientific basis for this exclusion is a major fault of the plan. Unlike the government, I continue to support the rights of recreational fishers to fish. I again call on the government to allow one line per recreational fisher in the fish-rich green zones of Moreton Bay.

Secondly, with reference to boundary markers on green zones, I continue to consider it unjust to fine mum and dad fishers for drifting into green zones when the zone boundary markers are not marked clearly and visibly.

Thirdly, the government's plan has failed to protect marine life in the bay. It has done nothing to prevent the recent increase in marine deaths, particularly that of dugongs, turtles and dolphins in the bay. A greater commitment to marine science research is needed.

Fourthly, professional fishermen who sold their licences have been able to buy another licence and return to the bay. That means that the total catch from professional fishing will not decline, as the government's plan was meant to secure. Major cracks are appearing in the government's plan for the marine park, which need to be addressed urgently.