



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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RECREATIONAL FISHING

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (11.26 pm): I am proud to say that I am a member of the Redland Bay Amateur Fishing Club. The club was established in the Redlands in the early 1980s and caters for all ages and fishing interests in Moreton Bay. I am also a member of the Redlands Boat Club and the Amity Point Fishing Club. I have found that being a member of these clubs has been most helpful in staying in touch with recreational fishers and their views and needs. I thank the presidents and committees of these fishing clubs for the good work that they do in the community.

The Redland Bay Amateur Fishing Club is also well known for the annual fishing competition that they run from their Redland Bay facility. The RBAFC is proud to be hosting the 2012 Wilson Moreton Bay and Offshore Family Fishing Challenge for the 21st year. The event, which will be held on the Queen's jubilee long weekend, will be the major fishing competition for the RBAFC, and with major sponsor, L Wilson & Co., returning, success is assured once again. The challenge has become part of the history of the Redlands area and is also one of the most well known family fishing competitions on the east coast of Australia. It is now an important part of the social calendar of recreational fishers as well as the average local person. A large number of sponsors and competitors have been with the challenge for many years and have stayed loyal to their commitment.

I will be attending the competition this year for the fourth time. The opening night on Friday is a highlight, along with fish weigh-in times each day, when the biggest fish caught are weighed and recorded. The children's eyes enlarge as they stare at the big fish in the icebox. The weekend culminates with the final weigh-in on Monday and the winners receiving their prizes. Individuals can also win major prizes—even a boat and car—through the draws.

I wish to commend the organisers of the fishing competition for the many hours they put in as volunteers and for the sustainable practice that they teach the children and families who participate. Children are taught to take only what they need and to use catch and release for the rest. These children are learning the important message of fishing sustainability. In fact, they represent a new sense of self-regulation that is growing among recreational fishers.

Unfortunately, successive state and federal Labor governments, under the influence of the Greens political party, have never rewarded recreational fishers for improving their practices. Instead they punished them by locking them out of their favourite fish-rich fishing holes and reefs. Labor imposed a culture of bans, lock-ups and closures. They had more closures than a Rugs a Million store. But under the LNP government, non-evidence based closures have come to an end. Recreational fishers will not be punished with any more new marine park green zones. That is good news for the fishers of Cleveland and the Redlands at this weekend's fishing competition.