



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Moreton Bay, Recreational Fishing

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.36 pm): The LNP government is delivering better and fairer access to recreational fishing in Moreton Bay with the building of new boat ramps and through the recent announcement to introduce special management areas for one-line fishing in selected green zones, in line with LNP fishing policy. For the almost five years that I have been in this House, I have heard Labor members singing from the DERM-Green party song sheet when it comes to fishing. The Labor way was to unfairly kick recreational fishers out of their favourite fishing spots of Moreton Bay, with little science, to secure green preferences. Under Labor we have seen more closures than a Rugs-A-Million store. That Labor lock-the-doors approach has hurt tourism and small businesses, destroyed jobs in marine industries and needlessly restricted harmless recreational activities that have been part of the everyday life of coastal Queenslanders.

On 16 February 2014, Premier Campbell Newman, fisheries minister John McVeigh and national parks minister Steve Dickson made an historic joint statement on recreational fishing—an announcement that the LNP state government would ease Labor's unnecessary restrictions upon recreation fishing. I table the media release.

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, titled 'Proposal to allow recreational fishing at Scotts Point' [[4714](#)].

The media release states—

Recreational anglers could soon be able to wet a line at Scotts Points ... under a proposal to change marine park zoning ...

The Premier said he wanted—

... to change the zoning at Scotts Point marine national park zone to allow recreational fishing from the shore ...

He went on to say—

The current zoning deprives families of the pleasure of fishing ...

and that—

the proposed change of zoning is a common-sense approach. The new zoning will have minimal impact on the environment, while producing great lifestyle benefits for the community.

I agree with the Premier. Minister Dickson went beyond Scotts Point with the potential scope of this proposal saying—

If there's an area near you with good public access to the shoreline, where recreational fishing would have minimal impact on the environment, I urge you to tell your local MP.

Well, I have been told. Recreational fishers and fishing clubs in the Cleveland, Redland City and the Moreton Bay region, together with state-wide and national associations, have contacted me to thank the government for fulfilling a longstanding commitment to reform this area in line with LNP policy. These recreational fishers and environmental scientists in Moreton Bay have identified about

12 of 33 zones in Moreton Bay as appropriate and desirable to become special management areas. I look forward to them receiving proper consideration as I forward their information on to the minister.

I wish to also commend Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Queensland senator Ron Boswell and the federal coalition government for their leadership on this issue. Prime Minister Tony Abbott has done the right thing and kept the LNP commitment to suspend Labor-Green's management plans for 33 marine parks that were to come into effect on 1 July 2014. The federal LNP has shown that we do not have to put up with the bully-boy tactics of international green groups. The LNP government is delivering on its commitments to all Queenslanders on recreational fishing.

(Time expired)