



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2014

MEMBER'S STATEMENTS

Cleveland Electorate, Harry Atkinson Artificial Reef

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.23 pm): Today I announce more good news for the recreational fishers of Cleveland and the Moreton Bay region, with the LNP can-do government's decision to provide additional artificial reef at Harry Atkinson reef in the form of a decommissioned boat that will be scuttled next week, weather permitting.

In my speech in the budget debate for the 2014-15 financial year I stated that the current budget would continue to deliver for the recreational fishers and boaties in Cleveland, Redland city and the Moreton Bay region. This announcement today continues to deliver on that commitment.

I said that we would continue to provide better and more sustainable fishing experiences for everyday anglers. We have done that to date through new boat ramps and other marine infrastructure and through the provision of more artificial reefs, including reef ball material and other approved materials of opportunity. So, today, it is my pleasure to deliver again with this decision to extend Harry Atkinson reef in this way.

Yesterday I visited the Port of Brisbane operations office together with Minister Steve Dickson and the parks and wildlife staff to check out the new boat. This 60-tonne, 26-metre delivery boat, donated by the Port of Brisbane, has been degreased and steam cleaned by a professional contractor and has also had additional approved materials of opportunity added to provide extra shelter for fish.

It will be scuttled next week, weather permitting, and form part of the 34-hectare Harry Atkinson Artificial Reef, located seven kilometres east-south-east of St Helena Island. This artificial reef was first established in 1975 by the coalition government and has been built up and extended since then to be what it is today. It is a great inshore fishing spot that can be accessed by boats, big and small alike. Next week it will be further extended due to the good work of this LNP government.

This decision is a good one for the environment too. It supports our objective to support sustainable and responsible recreational fishing. It is a sustainable measure in that creating new reef provides shelter for fish, contributing to their adult longevity, and taking pressure off existing natural reefs. This measure helps to replenish our fish stocks. This decision also comes on top of the extension of artificial reefs earlier with artificial reef balls that have taken place at Peel and Coochie reefs in the Redland city area.

The addition of the artificial reef is good for the marine environment also as it creates new reef ecosystems to help support the broader marine life in Moreton Bay. In conclusion, this decision to extend the Harry Atkinson artificial reef of Moreton Bay in this way shows that the LNP can-do government continues, like no other government, to deliver sustainable and responsible fishing opportunities for the recreational fishers of my electorate and across the state.