

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 1999

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill; Appropriation Bill

Dr CLARK: We are going very well, but it is spread throughout the region—it is not just in Cairns. I do not mind admitting that we are doing very well, because this Government recognises the significance of far-north Queensland. The leaders of our community recognise that—as does the member for Crows Nest. The next day the headlines continued to be positive—"Funds to Fire up FNQ". The newspaper reported as follows— "'The State Budget has delivered a shot of confidence to Cairns by maintaining funds for key inner city projects and overseas tourism promotion', business leaders said yesterday. **The provision of ongoing funding for redevelopments of the Esplanade, Cityport Wharf area and the central business district could only be seen as a stimulus', Northern Industry Development Association chairman Russell Board said. 'We see these as keystone projects for Cairns—there's a lot at stake with them because they will have a big impact on the confidence of property developers,' Mr Board said. 'They will act as a very positive stimulus and will probably lead to further private investment.'**" That is something which this Government is aiming to achieve.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JUNE 2000

Treasurer's Performance

Mr BORBIDGE: Let us see what happened. I will instance the situation at Cairns and then I will move right along the coast. I can understand the Treasurer trying to be dismissive of this particular exercise.

Mr Hamill: You have a very fertile imagination.

Mr BORBIDGE: **The situation is that the Government called in Deutschbank to undertake a consultancy on the debt levels of the port authorities along the coast.** That particular consultancy that was undertaken for the Government in respect of the Cairns Port Authority said, "Although you currently have debts of \$20m, you can sustain a debt level of \$120m"—\$100m more. The Government, through a debt/equity swap in respect of this particular exercise, is planning to transfer the benefits of that arrangement from the people of Cairns and the Cairns Port Authority to the Treasury, to the Treasurer and to the Government here in Brisbane. **What that means in terms of Cairns is that if the Cairns Port Authority wants to raise money for the Cityport project, or if the Cairns Port Authority wants to raise money for new terminal facilities at Cairns Airport, the simple reality will be that its debt level—thanks to the efforts of the Premier and the Treasurer; another fine mess they are getting us into—will be at the maximum level and the port authority will not have the capacity to carry out the work that will need to be carried out in respect of those local communities.**

I am also reliably informed that the same applies in Townsville, the same applies in Mackay, the same applies in Gladstone, the same applies in Bundaberg and the

same applies in Brisbane. What we have is a raiding of the financial arrangements of the port authorities right along the coast. Cairns will be forced to borrow \$100m—a debt for equity swap which Premier Beattie will swipe and then, presumably, pay interest. What the Government will do is transfer the accrual over a period of years of responsible financial management by port authorities right along this coast to the person who cannot be trusted—the Treasurer of this State.

WEDNESDAY, 31 JULY 2002

Notice of Motion

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cruise Shipping Plan

Hon. M. ROSE (Currumbin—ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading) (10.20 a.m.), by leave: Cabinet has approved two projects aimed at making Cairns and Townsville more attractive to cruise ships and defence vessels. The projects were identified as part of the implementation of the Queensland government's cruise shipping plan, jointly managed by Tourism Queensland and the Department of State Development and launched last November.

In Cairns, a study will look at the viability and infrastructure needs to better cater for cruise ships. A new cruise ship terminal is part of the CityPort project in Cairns. And in Townsville, the government will investigate the potential for a project to provide dedicated facilities for navy vessels and cruise ships. There has been a concerted push for some time to upgrade facilities in Townsville to cater for defence and cruise ship visits. Cabinet also endorsed the formation of a working group to manage coordination of cruise shipping infrastructure projects in Queensland over the next five years. The group will hold preliminary discussions with Cairns and Townsville port authorities within the next month.

WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2002

Transport Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2)

Second Reading

Hon. S. D. BREDHAUER (Cook—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads)

Mr Speaker, with respect to port-related amendments, it is proposed to clarify the powers of the Cairns Port Authority under the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, to enable delivery of all aspects of the Cairns Cityport development presently being undertaken by that authority. The project will be managed through a series of development leases. Once each precinct project is successfully completed, the lease then allows for the freehold title to pass from the port authority to the developer.

The Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 will also be amended to insert a new section dealing with port marine operational areas. Port marine operational areas will include shipping channels, swing basins, berthing pockets and dredge spoil

grounds. The amendments will ensure that port authorities retain planning powers over these strategic port assets.

Hansard 14 May 2003

Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA (Minister for Environment)

QUEENSLAND HERITAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

The member referred to section 32. He wanted to know why we are changing that so that another person, with the permission of the owner, may make applications relating to the heritage register, certificates of immunity or the kind. This is done in order to encourage and facilitate financial transactions so it will not be an impediment to a sale that there may be a possibility of heritage registration. This matter can be dealt with by another person with the permission of the owner.
(extract from speech)

After all, our heritage buildings are not just some quaint old museum pieces that it is nice to have in the background. They are actually part of the living stuff of our daily lives. The world that we move in has a heritage, and our heritage buildings have a lineage. These things need to be recognised because if we do not recognise that, then we do not really understand the environment we are working in. (extract from speech)

Questions Without Notice 3 Jun 2003

Cityport North Project, Cairns

Ms BOYLE: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads. I refer the minister to last weekend's launch of the very important Cityport North project in Cairns. I ask: how will Cityport North help far-north Queensland during these difficult times in tourism?

Mr BREDHAUER: I have a confession to make. Whilst I was extolling the virtues of the public transport benefits at Suncorp Stadium on Sunday, I was not there. The reason why I was not there is that I was in my home town of Cairns celebrating the launch on the weekend of the Cityport North project, which has been undertaken by the Cairns Port Authority. This is a major investment by the state government, through the Cairns Port Authority, in developing facilities for visitors and locals alike in far-north Queensland.

I might say that, whilst there were thousands of people at the Suncorp Stadium on Sunday, there were hundreds of people at the opening of the Cityport North project on Friday night and again on Saturday. The Cityport North project will really become a place for the people of Cairns—a place for the locals—to go. If there are any honourable members who have not the waterfront in Cairns, then I suggest that the next time they go to Cairns they take the opportunity to go down there and have a look. This government has changed the waterfront. We have opened up access for the people of Cairns and for visitors alike.

The new facility that was opened a couple of weeks ago by the Premier in conjunction with the new Reeflink terminal, the public boardwalk—

Mr McGrady: The police beat.

Mr BREDHAUER: And the police beat that has been undertaken is a major initiative in helping to completely rejuvenate and repackage the tourism opportunities that Cairns has to offer.

Mr McGrady: Who paid for it?

Mr BREDHAUER: The state government has paid for it through the Cairns Port Authority. Some \$54 million is being invested by the Cairns Port Authority in the Cityport initiative, and amongst that is the new Reeflink visitor terminal. The Reeflink visitor terminal will cater for 650,000 reef visitors a year, and that will be a major benefit. It is like an airline passenger terminal: people go and check in; there is a covered walkway. The new marina has more than doubled the number of marina berths that are available for the tourism industry, in particular, but there are also significant public spaces that have been opened up. Spence Street has now been opened up to the waterfront again. There is a great vista along the boardwalk. There will be continuous access along The Esplanade into the Cityport South project when that comes on line. It is a great achievement.

I want to thank in particular the member for Cairns. She has worked very closely with me as minister, the Cairns Port Authority and others to achieve what is a great outcome for the people of Cairns. I also want to thank the Chairman of the Cairns Port Authority, Clive Skarrot, who has done more than any other person individually, other than the member for Cairns, to help bring that about. I also thank Brad Geatches, the new CEO. We had a few problems with the reef tour operators 12 months ago, but thanks to their cooperation and the work of the Cairns Port Authority we have sorted those issues out. Can I say that a number of them approached me personally on Friday night to thank me for helping to resolve that issue to the satisfaction of the reef tour operators.

THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2003

Appropriation Bills

Ms BOYLE (Cairns—ALP)

I know that some honourable members have already been to Cairns since the opening of the lagoon and the esplanade project. The upgrading of the esplanade and the building of the lagoon with a contribution of \$12.5 million from the Beattie government is a major contribution not only to the lifestyle of people in Cairns but also to tourism infrastructure. I was pleased to be with

Steve Bredhauer, the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads, when he opened the Cityport development that is next to the esplanade development. That is increasing the wonderful marina and wharf facilities, the walkways and the restaurants around the seaport.

This first stage of Cityport has cost \$47 million. Yes, that benefits those of us who live in Cairns, but it is tourism infrastructure and should be counted as such. The Minister for Transport deserves particular recognition for all of the infrastructure components that he is putting in place.

QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 1828

Asked on 26 November 2003

MRS SHELDON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (MR BREDHAUER)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Cairns Cityport proposal and the involvement of the Cairns Port Authority-

(1) Is the Cairns Port Authority proceeding with the sale of a number of freehold titled parcels of land on the Cairns waterfront including the Cairns Yacht Club site for hotel and apartment development?

(2) Will he give an assurance that all revenue derived from the above sales will not be paid to the Government by way of dividend, special dividend or other arrangement, but will instead be used by the Cairns Port Authority to upgrade the existing port infrastructure as was originally intended under the Cityport Plan?

(3) Will he provide a guarantee that the Cairns Port Authority (CPA) will honour its previous commitment to relocate the Cairns Yacht Club to an alternative site (if required)?

ANSWER:

(1) The Cairns Port Authority's Cityport project is creating a major new waterfront precinct on Trinity Inlet between the recently completed Cairns Esplanade development and the commercial wharf area. The development will link the marine and tourism activities of the port with the Cairns city centre providing for tourism, residential and marine facilities. The land tenure of each of the remaining components of the Cityport project will be determined on a case by case basis. It is expected that there will be a mixture of long-term lease and freehold titles.

(2) Reasonable Investment in Cityport including the relevant revenue streams was approved by Cabinet in 2000. Cityport is proceeding based on this model with the exception of a funding injection to aid the Marine Park tourism operators with their move to the Reef Meet terminal. The authority is in a strong financial position and there are no plans to cancel any necessary capital investments or improvements. The authority has in place strategic planning arrangements for the seaport, airport and Cityport. The expansion and development of these facilities will continue to be managed within this planning system

(3) The CPA has already provided substantial financial support to the Cairns Yacht Club. This support has included allowing the club to occupy its current site on a subsidised rent and then a rent-free basis for over five years. The market value of this support has exceeded \$970,000.

The authority will continue to work with the Cairns Yacht Club in an effort to find a solution which will meet the needs of all stakeholders

FRIDAY, 18 JUNE 2004

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL Pages 1657 - 1660

APPROPRIATION BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 17 June (see p. 1638)

Dr LESLEY CLARK (Barron River—ALP) (10.40 a.m.): (an extract from her address)

At Cityport there is \$1.6 million towards the construction of a marina and aquatic club facilities on the marina site. That is a particularly significant contribution because, as some members would know, the old Cairns Yacht Club is actually going to be making way for a high-rise building. That has been very controversial in Cairns. This marina and aquatic club will make provision for the Cairns Yacht Club. I look forward to seeing that being carried out in such a way that it retains its historical memorabilia and heritage values in a new location, because that is very important to all the people in far-north Queensland. There is also \$3 million for extension of public access to Cityport North through Cityport South.

TUESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2004

Adjournment Page 2160

Cairns Yacht Club

Mr RICKUSS (Lockyer—NPA) (9.12 p.m.): In late July I had the pleasure of having a couple of meals at the Cairns Yacht Club. They were most enjoyable meals, with the inside of the yacht club very pleasant and with a view out to the water. While I was having lunch I spoke to some locals who were on the veranda enjoying a meal. They felt that it was one of the few places in Cairns on the foreshore that had an historical link to Cairns's past. I believe that the Cairns Port Authority, as a quango of the state government, has a moral obligation to find a solution so that the heritage of the Cairns Yacht Club can be built into the redevelopment of the site. Unfortunately, the club has been in limbo since 1999 when it was not able to renew the lease with the Cairns Port Authority. As the port authority was the only original objector for the listing of the Cairns Yacht Club in 1999, as I have stated earlier, surely it is up to the port authority to negotiate with any future developer of the site to include the Cairns Yacht Club.

What has also concerned a lot of Cairns people is the way in which the Queensland Heritage Council has handled the process. It ignored its own advice and when the vote was taken on the issue, two northern delegates were absent

from the vote and it still required the casting vote of the chairman to have the Cairns Yacht Club not listed as a heritage site.

The local view is that the input that the Cairns Yacht Club has had over the years into the community is worth 20 times the dollar value of the land for the port authority. The Cairns Yacht Club not only has great support from the local north Queensland populace but also from thousands of backpackers that it has taken sailing on a Wednesday afternoon. For some of these backpackers, it is the first time that they have sailed on the ocean. This is the type of experience that the backpackers and other tourists will talk about when they go back home. It is the type of advertising that the tourist industry cannot pay for. It is priceless.

The 70 per cent of Cairns people who support the heritage listing of the Cairns Yacht Club deserve to be listened to. Hopefully, the Labor members from the Cairns area will become involved in this area and find a workable solution that not only satisfies the Cairns Port Authority but also satisfies the Cairns Yacht Club. Surely the club should be saved. With some good consultation and planning, this can be a win-win situation not only for Cairns but also for the Cairns Yacht Club.

TUESDAY, 19 APRIL 2005 Page 852

PETITIONS

Cairns Yacht Club

Hon. Desley Boyle from 316 petitioners requesting the House to protect the historical Cairns Yacht Club site and heritage listed building by whatever means it has at its disposal.

Minister's response tabled



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



Queensland
Government

Our ref: MC13121

Minister for
Transport and Main Roads

27 JUN 2005

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 422-05 - Cairns Yacht Club

I refer to petition No. 422-05 regarding the Cairns Yacht Club (CYC) lodged by the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, Minister of Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women. The petition refers to the history of the clubhouse site and the petitioners request the House to protect the clubhouse building.

The clubhouse for the CYC is located on a site owned by the Cairns Port Authority (CPA) in Wharf Street Cairns overlooking Trinity Inlet.

I am advised the CYC, previously known as the Cairns Sailing Club and Cairns Aquatic Club, has been based at this site since 1917 with the part of current clubhouse being built in 1920 after the original one was destroyed by a cyclone. The petition appears to be incorrect in stating that this clubhouse was built in 1902.

The current clubhouse site and building has changed substantially over the years. Currently there is a short section of sandy beach adjoining the clubhouse. This was added in 1938 following some reclamation work in the area. Many of the features of the building itself date from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

Heritage listing of the clubhouse has been considered a number of times, the most recent being in 2003 when the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) provisionally listed the property and appointed an independent assessor for advice. In December 2003 the QHC withdrew the provisional listing, determining that the permanent listing would not proceed on the basis that the site is not of cultural heritage significance and that it does not satisfy the criteria for entry in the register.

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The petition refers to the clubhouse building as being a "heritage listed building" and being "identified on the Register of the National Estate". This is not correct. Data on the property has been provided to the Commonwealth's Australian Heritage Council (AHC) for assessment as to whether it should be entered on the Register of the National Estate. The AHC currently has not made a determination in this regard.

The CYC and the CPA entered into a binding Memorandum of Understanding in May 2004 for the CPA to assist the CYC to relocate to new premises to be located in the redeveloped Marina. The new facilities will be purpose designed with the CYC providing direct input into the design process.

When this decision was announced, it was indicated that the CYC Committee had unanimously supported the CPA's proposal to relocate and that the CYC was looking forward to a new future there where it could continue its long and proud history of sailing in the Cairns Community.

The petitioners have requested the House protect the property. This cannot be agreed to as the normal processes within Queensland for heritage listing has been rigorously and completely utilised and it was determined on a number of occasions that its listing cannot be supported. Whether the AHC takes a different view is yet to be determined. In the meantime, planning for the new clubhouse premises is progressing with the full support of the CYC.

Yours sincerely



PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads

TUESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2005

Papers

Page 2156

30 June 2005—

[Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads \(Mr Lucas\) to an e-petition sponsored by Ms Boyle from 316 petitioners requesting the House to protect the Cairns Yacht Club, a historical site and heritage listed building](#)

THURSDAY, 30 MARCH 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cairns CBD Revitalisation

[Hon. PD BEATTIE \(Brisbane Central—ALP\) \(Premier\)](#) (9.44 am): I recently joined the Cairns City Council Mayor, Kevin Byrne, and the Cairns Port Authority CEO, Brad Geatches, to officially open the \$3.3 million redevelopment of Wharf Street and celebrate the completion of the Cairns CBD Revitalisation Strategy. I was joined by the local members and ministers. I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my ministerial statement in *Hansard*. Leave granted.

In 1999 my Government promised the people of Cairns we would develop and implement a revitalisation strategy to integrate the CBD with the \$70 million Cityport development and \$44 million Esplanade transformation, to which the State contributed \$11.5 million.

The Queensland Government has invested almost \$10 million in the Cairns CBD Revitalisation Strategy and we've worked very closely with Cairns City Council and Cairns Port Authority on the many individual projects—projects including the Forgarty Park Amphitheatre, the new-look City Place and the redevelopment of Shields and Spence streets.

[The completion of the newly-rejuvenated Wharf Street, to which we contributed \\$1.1 million, was the final piece of that puzzle; the last stretch that links together the world-class facilities Cairns CBD has to offer its residents and its visitors. The Cairns CBD Revitalisation Strategy is already achieving its goal of attracting new investment in order for the city to remain a competitive and world-class tourism destination.](#)

[A report released by the Northern Industry Development Association in December highlights almost \\$1 billion worth of new investment that is planned or already under construction in Cairns, including projects such as the \\$90 million Trilogy on the Esplanade and the \\$160 million Cairns Harbour Lights development. There's no doubt the revitalisation strategy will entice new holiday makers to the region and keep the regulars coming back.](#)

More than that, this revitalisation strategy will benefit the local community—not just the 30,000 Tropical North Queenslanders directly and indirectly employed by the tourism industry—but also the local residents.

Speaking of tourism in North Queensland, I know that there have been concerns raised about the impact of Cyclone Larry.

Despite the devastation that has been caused to parts of our beautiful north, the tourism industry is continuing to operate and it's important that the travelling public understand this.

The message I have for anyone considering coming to Queensland and, in particular, north Queensland is that we are still open for tourism business

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY 2006 Page 1867

PETITIONS

The following honourable members have lodged paper petitions for presentation—

Cairns Yacht Club

Mr Springborg from 4,533 petitioners requesting the House to protect the historical Cairns Yacht Club site and heritage listed building by whatever means it has at its disposal. The following honourable member has lodged an e-petition which is now closed and presented—

Hansard Thursday, 25 May 2006

Speech by

Hon. Desley Boyle

MEMBER FOR CAIRNS

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Heritage Register

Hon. D BOYLE (Cairns—ALP) (Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women)

(10.15 am): The Mackay Whitsunday region has been chosen to pilot an audit of heritage places in Queensland. Urban development and population growth along our coastline continues rapidly and is placing pressure on the preservation of our cultural heritage. **As Queensland continues to grow, older buildings are often replaced by new ones. Some heritage places may be lost if they do not have the protection of heritage listing, while in other cases people may use the heritage argument to try to stop development.**

By auditing our towns and cities, we can be sure that we have identified our most significant heritage places up-front. Identifying heritage places ensures the development rights and constraints on a property are known up-front to owners, builders and developers. This heritage audit will not stop other places from being added to the Queensland Heritage Register in the future.

The Mackay Whitsunday region was chosen for the pilot because it has a good mix of histories, coastal and inland areas, large regional centres and rural communities, and a mix of primary, secondary and tertiary industries. The pilot will look, firstly, at the local government areas of Mackay, Nebo and Mirani before being extended later this year to Whitsunday, Bowen, Belyando, Peak Downs, Broadsound and Sarina. The pilot is the first phase in a \$2.7 million five-year statewide cultural heritage assessment.

Places that can be listed include houses, homesteads, government and commercial buildings, parks and gardens, churches, memorials and other places of state heritage significance. The Environmental Protection Agency is working with councils, community groups and individuals in the Mackay Whitsunday region to identify places that are important to communities and should be considered for heritage listing.

The EPA will assess each place area against the criteria in the Queensland Heritage Act. This information will be presented to the Queensland Heritage Council for consideration for listing on the Queensland Heritage Register. Nominations for the Mackay, Nebo and Mirani areas are expected to be considered by the Heritage Council in June. The Queensland Heritage Register already contains more than 1,400 places, including 216 homes, 124 religious places, 123 memorials or cemeteries, 33 parks or gardens and 241 commercial places.
[Tabled paper: Copy of ministerial statement by Hon. Desley Boyle relating to audit of heritage places.](#)

WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY 2007

Page 1593

TABLED PAPERS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

• [Response from the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism \(Ms Nelson-Carr\) to a paper petition \(658-06\) presented by Mr Springborg from 4533 petitioners regarding the Cairns](#)

Our Ref: BNE16243-5

BNE2006/7235

E/06/01820

Your Ref: 658-06

Mr Neil Laurie

The Clerk of the Parliament

Queensland Parliamentary Service

Parliament House

Cnr Alice and George Streets

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

[Thank you for your letter of 25 May 2006 to my predecessor, the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, the then Minister for Environment, concerning a petition received by the House on 24 May 2006 regarding the Cairns Yacht Club. Due to an administrative error, the prepared response was not forwarded to you, and I apologise for this.](#)

[The Queensland Heritage Council \(QHC\) is a statutory authority independent of government and is responsible for deciding whether or not to enter a place in the Heritage Register. It must operate within the framework of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, which outlines the criteria that determine whether the QHC may enter a place in the Register. The Government has no direct role in these decisions. A decision to enter a place can be challenged in the Planning and Environment Court, and the QHC must be confident that a place meets the threshold for entry in the State Register.](#)

[I advise that, after the QHC's March 2003 decision to provisionally enter the Cairns Yacht Club in the Queensland Heritage Register was met with objections, the QHC was legally required to appoint an independent assessor to report on the objections. At its 12 December 2003 meeting, the QHC considered the assessor's report and, with the Chairman's casting vote, decided not to enter the Cairns Yacht Club in the Register.](#)

While deciding that the nomination did not meet the threshold for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register, it recognised that the place had considerable heritage values for the Cairns community.

Following that decision, the owner applied for a Certificate of Immunity, the effect of which is to prevent a place being entered in the Register for five years. The QHC is not able to refuse an application for a Certificate of Immunity having decided that a place does not satisfy criteria for entry in the Register unless the application appears to be frivolous or vexatious. A Certificate of Immunity was issued for the Cairns Yacht Club on 27 August 2004 and is valid until 27 August 2009.

Could you please ensure this response is tabled as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely

Lindy Nelson-Carr MP

Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism

WEDNESDAY, 18 JULY 2007

Estimates Committee F—Environment and Multiculturalism Pages 36 -37

Mrs MENKENS: Thank you. Crossing to heritage, Minister, and the MPS at page 1-9. Regarding the lead role that your department plays in preserving our cultural and historic heritage which, as we both agree, is very, very important, **can you explain why significant sites such as the Cairns Yacht Club and public facilities such as Yungaba and the only remaining in situ buildings from Expo at South Bank are being lost? They are being developed or sold to private interests.**

Ms NELSON-CARR: I have actually visited the site of the Cairns Yacht Club, so I know exactly what you are referring to.

Mrs MENKENS: So have I.

Ms NELSON-CARR: That is good. It is our part of the world, is it not. That was first nominated to the Queensland Heritage Register in 1996. However, the Queensland Heritage Council has rejected this nomination because it just did not reach the significance that is required under the criteria that is set by the council. In 2002 it was again nominated and was previously entered on the register by the Queensland Heritage Council. The Queensland Heritage Council subsequently notified the public in March 2003 of that listing. This notification generated objections to the listing and an independent assessor was then appointed to look into the objections and review the provisional entry as per requirements of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

In December 2003, after considering the assessor's report the Queensland Heritage Council decided not to proceed with a permanent entry on the basis that, whilst the Cairns Yacht Club was clearly of local heritage significance, it did not meet the requirements of state heritage significance.

Once this decision was finalised, the Queensland Heritage Council received an application from the property's owners seeking a certificate of immunity. A certificate of immunity, as described in section 43 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, comes into force when an owner or the owner's representative applies to the Queensland Heritage Council for immunity from registration. The Queensland Heritage Council is then required to consider the application and, if the place to which the application relates does not satisfy the criteria for entry in the register, the Queensland Heritage Council must issue a certificate of immunity.

The Queensland Heritage Council is unable to refuse an application for certificate of immunity after previously deciding that the place does not satisfy criteria for

entering the register unless the application appears to be frivolous or vexatious. This certificate prevents a place from being considered for listing for a five-year period. In this case, the Queensland Heritage Council has decided that the nomination has not satisfied the requirements of state heritage listing, so it was obliged to grant the certificate of immunity under the Queensland Heritage Act. Nominations to the register are decided by the council, as I said. This is an independent statutory authority appointed by the government. We do not make decisions as a government about entry in or removal from the register and we cannot overturn the heritage council's nomination decisions. Entering an historic building or a site recognises the importance of those places to the people of Queensland.

WEDNESDAY, 8 AUGUST 2007

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill; Appropriation Bill
Estimates Committee F

Pages 2417 - 2420

Mrs MENKENS (Burdekin—NPA) (8.11 pm): (extract from her speech)

Protecting the heritage and history of our historic buildings is important. The Heritage Council has a responsibility to that extent. The wishes of local communities must be taken into consideration. It is disappointing to see situations such as the Cairns Yacht Club, where there is a huge groundswell of support to preserve the heritage of this historic building, yet the state government ignores its request in favour of further development.

THURSDAY, 28 AUGUST 2008

Page 2424

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated

Cairns Yacht Club

Mr McArdle, from 490 petitioners, requesting the House to direct the Port Authority to stay any order or requirement for removal or demolition of the Cairns Yacht Club building, allowing it to remain in situ.

Hansard Tuesday, 12 February 2008

Speech by

Steve Wettenhall

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Edwards, Mr R

Mr WETTENHALL (Barron River—ALP) (9.53 pm): Tonight I wanted to inform the House of the remarkable life of a much respected constituent, Mr Ron Edwards, who passed away in Cairns on 5 January 2008 aged 77. Ron moved from Melbourne to Cairns with his wife Anne and their children, Lee and David, in 1959

and for the last 25 years lived in a mud brick house at Fairyland near the Barron River at Kuranda forgoing modern luxuries such as running water. For over 50 years Ron was Australia's foremost collector and publisher of folk songs, yarns and bushcraft. He has too many achievements to chronicle in the three minutes I have tonight, but they include establishing Rams Skull Press and publishing *200 Years of Australian Folk song: Index 1788-1988*, which gives complete bibliographical details for every Australian folk song. Next came the *Overlander Songbook* with several later expanded editions. He was also the lead singer on the first 12- inch folk music album recorded in Australia—the Wattle album *Australiana Goldrush Songs*. In 1976 he published the *Big Book of Australian Folk Song*, which to this day remains the largest collection of Australian folk songs. Then in 1977 came the *Australian Yarn*, which is still today the standard work. In 1975 he published the first of 10 volumes of *Australian Traditional Bush Craft*. He is perhaps best known for this series and indeed the first three found their way into my Santa sacks at that time—and I have them to this day. He was an artist of skill and insight and beautifully illustrated most of his publications as well as painting naked women, horses and landscapes for tourists. [One of his paintings, *Start of the Yacht Season 1975*, hangs in my room in the Parliamentary Annexe and is always a reminder of home. The scene is of some youngsters launching their craft at the Cairns Yacht Club, soon to be demolished as the waterfront is redeveloped by the Cairns Port Authority and the yacht club relocated to newer facilities. I know Ron, like many people in Cairns, was saddened by the imminent end of the old yacht club. In 2006 Ron used the same subject in *Memory of the Cairns Yacht Club*, which is painted in a more subdued manner than his usual impressionistic style.](#) Happily, Cairns Regional Gallery has acquired this picture. In the late 1990s Ron and his wife Anne travelled to the Torres Strait and collected hundreds of traditional songs and stories from the people of Stephen Island and returned them in the form of songbooks. Rams Skull Press produced more than 350 titles and 400,000 copies were printed. In 1992 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia and in 2000 Swinburne Institute of Technology awarded him an honorary doctorate for eminence in folklore and publishing. On behalf of the people of Barron River, I extend my condolences to Ron's wife, family and friends and our gratitude for the treasures he has collected, created and passed on.

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2008 Page 2319

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—[Mr McArdle, from 9,633 petitioners, requesting the House to direct the Port Authority to stay any order or requirement for removal or demolition of the Cairns Yacht Club building, allowing it to remain in situ.](#)
