



Speech by

Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Thursday, 9 March 2006

QUEENSLAND EMBLEMS

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (5.21 pm): We have a fish, the anemone; we have an animal, the koala; we have the Cooktown orchid; we have the brolga; we have a state gem, the sapphire; and I believe we also have a Queensland tartan.

Mr Lee interjected.

Ms NOLAN: And we have a state colour, thanks to Ronan; we have maroon. Now our state needs a new official symbol—a Queensland fossil. I can imagine when the opposition hears this we will see its members' hands springing up. The opposition frontbench will all see their opportunity to be recognised in perpetuity. I hate to disappoint them, but they are not even in the game.

This campaign for an official Queensland fossil emblem is being driven by the year 5 students of Raceview State School. Rather than choosing the members for Warrego, Beaudesert or Hinchinbrook, they would like to see Queensland adopt the fossil of the Muttaborrasaurus. The Raceview campaign started last year when, as part of Children's Book Week, the school librarian, Mark Prouatt, read the kids *Gogo Fish*, the story of the Western Australian state fossil emblem. The students loved the story and decided it was time our state followed the lead of Western Australia and South Australia in adopting a fossil as a symbol of our precious and ancient land and its rich animal history.

The students are now seeking community support for Queensland to adopt Muttaborrasaurus, a plant-eating dinosaur which lived 113 million years ago and which has spurred a whole tourism industry since it was first found near Muttaborra in 1981. So far the Raceview kids have written to the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the education minister, the Director of the Queensland Museum, the President of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland, the Fossil Collectors Association of Australasia and me, and they have had strong support all around. I warn the parliament that these persistent young people have no intention of taking no for an answer.

Queensland's official emblems are symbols of who we are, our state's natural attributes and our heritage. The students of Raceview State School are proud and thoughtful young citizens with a great idea. I urge members to support this quintessentially Queensland campaign.