




Speech By
Jon Krause

MEMBER FOR BEAUDESERT

Record of Proceedings, 1 March 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Vegetation Management

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (10.58 pm): It has been nearly six months now since the LNP defeated the Labor Party's draconian vegetation management laws that were brought into this place under the cover of darkness on the night of Thursday, 19 March 2016. The Deputy Premier decided to try to sneak them through committee in about four weeks, which is a very short time frame for such an important piece of legislation for rural and regional Queensland. The laws would have had a terrible impact on the ability of landholders and farmers to manage their vegetation and property in the best way they can to keep it productive and get rid of regrowth and other issues that they need to manage in terms of vegetation.

There is an issue outstanding when it comes to vegetation management laws, and that is that a review has apparently been underway for many months now into the vegetation management codes. As many members will know, a lot of activity that goes on on properties is governed by those codes, which are monitored by the department and set out under the act. That review has been a long time coming. We are used to seeing plenty of reviews go on for a very long time, but the government really should have completed it by now and put beyond doubt what is going to come out of that review for landholders. I call on the government to get its act together and complete that review and let farmers and landholders know where they are going, because there is uncertainty about the future.

We know that the government has pledged to bring those laws back if it is re-elected, with the support of the Greens, to again restrict the ability of farmers and landholders to manage their land. While members here know that the LNP will always stand up for farmers and their ability to manage their land, Labor will simply cave in to the Greens, lock up the land and take away landholders' rights and their ability to manage their property.

One of the issues facing my electorate is youth crime. Last week the shadow Attorney-General visited Beaudesert, where there has been a recent spate of youth crime. A lot of people are very concerned about the soft approach that has been adopted by this government to the youth justice system—unwinding reforms that had been implemented by the former government which had proven, through the 2014-15 year, to reduce the rate of youth crime. The fact that Beaudesert is encountering an uptick in youth crime is a direct result of the winding back of those youth justice reforms. I again call on the government to listen to the people of the community—in Beaudesert, Townsville, Cairns and many other places in Queensland—who want to see a stronger, better approach to dealing with youth justice that deters offenders from offending in the first place.