



Speech by

BILL FELDMAN

MEMBER FOR CABOOLTURE

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NATIVE TITLE (QUEENSLAND) STATE PROVISIONS AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Mr FELDMAN (Caboolture—ONP) (Leader of the One Nation Party) (9.56 p.m.): I am sure that everyone is aware of One Nation's philosophy on native title and the absurd way in which it has been orchestrated by some Aboriginal leaders. They have been aided and abetted by the courts and the myriad lawyers who are prepared to overlook the divisiveness it has invoked for the prospect of massive retainers and financial rewards that it will bring them. In the end, the winners will be those at the top of the economic feeding tree, the economic *Tyrannosaurus Rexes*—the legal profession.

I listened with interest as the honourable member for Kurwongbah spoke about her school days and reminisced about what she had learned of the policies in Australia at that time. What she forgot to say was that 1972 arrived and the dream of Australian-owned, Australian-operated and Australian-run enterprises died at the hands of economic rationalism and the Leftist feel-good policies that murdered Australian economics. We have only been doing CPR to the economy ever since.

The Bill is intent on snuffing out the last glimmer of that dream. Back then, it was the dream that each and every Australian had an interest in this land, its beauty, its wonder, its wealth and its potential. We now have the absurd situation where we even have to pay for the privilege of perhaps starting the Olympic torch relay at Ayers Rock. Where will this sort of indulgence end?

This Bill gives no consideration to the miners or the thousands of jobs for ordinary Australians that are under threat due to the ability of native title claimants to blackmail mining companies out of existence. They do not even have to be native title holders; they only have to be claimants. Almost anybody can be a claimant. Under this Bill, being a claimant gives a person the right to negotiate, which is tantamount to the right to blackmail any person or company seeking to develop a mining operation.

One Nation will be moving to amend this iniquitous Bill by removing the right to negotiate provisions in Part 14, Native Title Provisions for Mining Claims, and in Part 17, Native Title Provisions for Mining Leases. This must be done to make it workable. We must make it practical in order to kick-start industry and place Queenslanders in long-term meaningful jobs. We must do whatever is possible to alleviate the burden of native title on industry, while ensuring that we give legal native title holders the same rights as pastoralists and other landowners within, of course, the strict boundaries of the Commonwealth native title legislation.

The Commonwealth Native Title Act, in attempting to protect the rights of native title parties, has gone too far. It has given to Aboriginal Australians rights that are not the same and that are far beyond those of all other Australians—I repeat: all other Australians. I notice in the Commonwealth Native Title Act, which the Premier in essence had to use, mention is made of the right of the Minister to override the tribunal's decision. In part, it states—

"In the interests of Queensland, (a) for the social or economic benefit of Queensland (including of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders) ..."

Why is it necessary to distinguish Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from other Queenslanders? It may seem a trivial point, but it is a classic example of creating division within Australian society. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are Queenslanders and Australians. No distinction need be made in legislation, policies or Government departments. We heard the vitriol from the honourable member for Townsville, as he desperately attempted to perpetuate the racism myth against us. I put it to this House that this racism in legislation is just the sort of divisiveness to which One

Nation is so strongly opposed. I see no need to divide Australian against Australian on the basis of race. This is an inference that Aborigines are not Queenslanders and are not Australians.

Mining is a vital industry to Queensland. The Premier acknowledged the importance of the mining industry to Queensland and its impact upon our State's wealth and job creation. One would think the Premier, whose catchcry is jobs, jobs, jobs, would be most eager to assist the mining industry to begin working again, to begin exploring again, to begin developing and to begin providing those elusive jobs, jobs, jobs—jobs that he has no hope of providing unless he is prepared to give some protection from the spurious claims and blackmail to the sector most able to provide them. Why then has he included right to negotiate provisions for high-impact mining activities in the Native Title (Queensland) State Provisions Amendment Bill? Why has he been so generous to native title parties in high-impact mining areas? Why has he not taken full advantage of the Commonwealth Native Title Act's allowance for the State to exclude these provisions under section 43A?

Native title has had an extremely detrimental effect on our mining industry. The Premier's decision to include the right to negotiate provisions only further hinders this industry—a major employer in Queensland. For too long the Aboriginal people have been given "whiskey and beads" by both sides of politics rather than attention to the real issues. They have been given remuneration rather than reconciliation. I am not suggesting for a minute that native title holders should be left out in the cold. Yes, they should be consulted and have the right to object to proposed mining activity. They should be given the opportunity to discuss with mining applicants where sacred and sensitive sites may be located. However, they should have no more rights than any other land-holder or leaseholder.

Surely the time has come to look after the interests of all Queenslanders and Queenslanders' place within Australia. The Premier's Bill attempts to deal with native title in Queensland according to Commonwealth law. However, it does not go far enough. More needs to be done to get industry working again and to get Queenslanders into jobs, and more needs to be done to give all parties involved in native title a more equal say in what is fundamentally an inequitable legislative mess.

As the honourable member for Cairns pointed out, this legislation does not do one thing or the other. Mr Beattie is caught like a kid straddling a barbed wire fence. He has one foot on either side of the fence and his strides caught on the wire. He must jump one way or the other before the wire recoils and more than his strides are caught and torn. Sensible amendments will be brought in at the Committee stage to help him out of this mess he is in. Just like the kid caught on the fence, he needs a hand to get himself off. One Nation will provide the amendments that will extract him from the wire on the fence. Better unique legislation than a eunuch legislator.
