



Speech by

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NATIVE TITLE (QUEENSLAND) STATE PROVISIONS BILL

Dr PRENZLER (Lockyer—ONP) (4.17 p.m.): From day one the policy of Pauline Hanson's One Nation has been to provide certainty in regard to land rights for hardworking Queenslanders. The main drive behind this policy has been to ensure equity for all Queenslanders, and not to undertake expensive token gestures in a vain attempt to appeal to heart-on-the-sleeve consciences—consciencess that in many cases have been manipulated by distortions of truth and hysterical journalistic reporting.

The only direction for Queensland is forward. We must provide certainty for investors, certainty for employers and certainty for the public. We are relieved to witness that the One Nation presence in this Parliament has forced a radical rethink of this insane legislation. This will provide some members of the community with certainty in their businesses and homes. However, we will continue to fight for the abolition of many of the ridiculous compensation offers and fight for the reintroduction of the sunset clauses into this Bill—a Bill that should never have been tabled in 1993 and a Bill that the Government was told would come back to haunt it. And it has.

Former Premier Goss introduced the second-reading debate on the Native Title (Queensland) Bill 1993 with the following comments—

"Today is an important day for the future of all Queenslanders."

He went on to say—

"Queensland can start to clear away some of the uncertainty and concerns that have been generated in this community."

Former Premier Goss was wrong. The reality is that five years later we are in this House once again debating the native title legislation. Uncertainty has not been reduced. Mr Beattie now says that the people of Queensland want certainty and that he and his Labor Government will achieve that certainty. When we examine the track record, we have cause to doubt that statement.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation believes that we should be one people belonging to one nation. For many years our democratically elected Parliaments have directed Government instrumentalities to develop policies which have led to discriminatory practices. The present Bill is one we believe to be discriminatory. When were the people of Queensland consulted about this legislation and its imminent impacts on Queenslanders' way of life? The Honourable Rob Borbidge said in his speech on the subject in 1993—

"We are also seeing the Government of Queensland and the Government of the Commonwealth committing taxpayers to a variety of forms of compensation—by definition—not clearly delineated, which will place literally billions of dollars into the hands of a tiny percentage of our population as compensation for white settlement—in line with Labor policy, not in line with the High Court."

This Keating legislation is recognised throughout the world to be complex, poorly drafted and difficult to understand. Queenslanders are facing this dilemma here and Pauline Hanson's One Nation believes amendments to this Bill will be engaged in ad infinitum. It should be remembered that this infinitum costs the Queensland taxpayer indirectly their jobs, job security and essential services as the legal

eagles are the only ones to benefit from this nonsense legislation. But now we have certainty—or so Mr Beattie says.

Let us be up front about this legislation: it should be scrapped. At the very least, if Pauline Hanson's One Nation had an opportunity to amend this Bill, its consideration would be deferred until the electors of Australia were given an opportunity to express their opinion by way of a referendum. We support the object of the Bill to validate intermediate period acts which took place after the date of commencement of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 on 1 January 1994 and before the High Court decision on Wik on 23 December 1996 in accordance with the provisions of the Native Title Amendment Act 1997. Let it not be overlooked, however, that we support the complete reversal of this insane Bill, a Bill that does not unite a country but rather divides it based on race. I would like to share with honourable members a quote—

"We are prepared to be called racists in the interests of Queensland and this nation. Aboriginal Australians deserve the very best that we can do for them, in the same way as every Australian, the very best that can be done for them."

No, Pauline Hanson's One Nation did not make the statement. If we had, we would be called racist. These comments again came from the former Premier, Mr Borbidge, in a debate on this Bill in 1993.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation deplors the intent of this amendment to create certainty for pastoralists and miners. We are not prepared, however, to see the livelihoods—in fact, the whole way of life—of real Queensland families put under threat. Some of these families are the fourth and fifth generations to have worked their properties. The empathy these families have with their land must be recognised. Native title claims on these properties must be extinguished absolutely.

One Nation does not accept the premise that this would invoke the liability for compensation. Our research has indicated that, by the year 2004, the Indigenous Land Fund will have received some \$1,289m from the annual allocation of funds plus interest accrued. The fund is already in a position to purchase in a single year all the pastoral properties on Cape York, which are currently valued at some \$50m. The young Australians who cherish the dream of one day owning a farm will have to compete with the unique buying power which their parents' taxes have given to Australian Aborigines to add to the 15% of the Australian land area which they have already received. The corporation already has a financial power to destroy the Australian livestock industry in less than half the time it took to create it. It is reported that production from the 32 Northern Territory pastoral leases now under Aboriginal ownership as a result of the Aboriginal land purchases has plummeted. Cattle on the properties have either died or disappeared.

We are not criticising the expenditure of funds on those people most in need in our community. We are criticising the idiotic, dangerous and totally unworkable legislation we are faced with here today and, may I add, that we are trying to fix using a bandaid approach. I quote the following passage—

"It is high time that this Government abandoned its Aboriginal cringe and determine that, in future, all Government services will be provided to the people of Queensland on the basis of need not colour."

Once again an inflammatory Pauline Hanson One Nation comment? It is not! This comment was made yet again by the Nationals back in 1993.

We must congratulate Mr Beattie on this, his small, first step to providing certainty and eliminating discriminatory practices based on an unfounded ideology that Australia has to continually look backwards and apologise for its existence. There are a few things that we agree on, but the target of 5% unemployment can only be achieved by providing certainty in our business, industry and personal life. This legislation has come back to haunt Mr Beattie. It is this legislation that will assist in undermining his noble efforts.

The Labor Party dreamed up this mess and now it is facing the consequences. It is the unfortunate Queenslanders who will suffer from Labor's incompetence. This particular Bill addresses only those issues relating to validation of the intermediate acts, which One Nation supports. The Premier is on notice, however, that One Nation will not support any legislation that we believe is discriminatory and divisive. Apart from that, we support these amendments.
