



Speech by

Dr PETER PRENZLER

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

Hansard 10 November 1998

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

Dr PRENZLER (Lockyer—ONP) (11.18 p.m.): As I have mentioned once before in this House, One Nation's policy from day one has been to provide certainty in relation 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 the heart-on-the-sleeve consciences—consciences that in many cases have been manipulated by the distortions of truth in hysterical journalistic reporting.

In his second-reading speech the Premier mentions jobs. He talks about telling the truth to the electorate, and yet he fails to tell the public about the real consequences to the State of native title. He fails to tell the public about the enormous amount of power that native title legislation gives indigenous people. He fails to tell the people of Queensland just how much power his Bill unnecessarily gives native title parties. Yes, native title holders should be given the right to consult and be consulted as to mining applicants' activity on any land which they own or on which native title coexists.

What should not happen is that native title holders be given any more rights than other Australians. It is criminal that native title interests have been given so much already, and yet they are still not happy. It is even more criminal that the Labor Party continues to hand out even more rights, as the Premier has done in this case.

In his second-reading speech, the Premier spent some time discussing the need for certainty with regard to native title. He believes that this Bill "provides certainty" and that it "provides a balanced, practical and workable approach". I ask: a balanced, practical and workable approach to whom? Saying that this Bill is balanced is about as realistic as saying that a level playing field exists. That it is practical and workable is just as big a fallacy. In relation to certainty, the only thing that is certain from such a Bill is that the native title interests will be served well.

Native title is an orchestrated land grab by people who have only their own interests to serve, and the Premier seems keen to play this game. Even Western Australia and the Northern Territory had enough sense to see the damage that the right to negotiate provisions caused and have legislated accordingly. In his second-reading speech, the Premier spends considerable time enlightening us with five realities which we must all recognise and accommodate. I would suggest that the last person who should be informing us of what is and is not reality should be the Premier, a member of the same party who created this mess in the first place and who continually weakens to the grabs for more and more.

Is native title realistically workable in any form within the Australian society and economy? No, it is not! Yet the Premier seems to think that his Queensland provisions will be workable—Queensland provisions which further inhibit productive use of our resources and further inhibit the mining industry, and those things add to the unique qualities of this legislation and create further divisions within our own society. They are provisions which will cost Queenslanders more jobs. One Nation will never support legislation which gives native title interests even greater power, especially power which other Australians do not have. One Nation is interested in what is best for Queensland. One Nation is interested in equality, in job creation, in fairness, in providing certainty and about living in reality.

Members of the Labor Party want to talk about reality, so let us talk about reality. Let us have a look at the map of Queensland that the Department of Natural Resources has made available and that shows native title claim activity in the State of Queensland as at 30 September 1998. Looking at this

map, one sees that more than half of Queensland has been claimed. For example, there is the claim by the Wakka Wakka people over land, water and air, including all national parks, conservation reserves, unallocated State lands and timber reserves in the Burnett district. This claim was made last month.

This is a prime example of the greed of the Aboriginal industry. The list of native title rights and interests is long and, frankly, quite absurd. Did traditional tribal custom include mining, farming or hunting for commercial purposes? Yet in this claim alone such activities are listed as native title interests and rights possessed by traditional Aboriginal laws. That is reality. Reality is the proposed family fishing day at the Hinze Dam at the Gold Coast that was cancelled recently due to an existing native title claim over the area and the inability of anyone to grant a permit for fishing without negotiating with the native title claimants. I could go on and on with such examples of the effects of native title on Queenslanders and on Queensland. The problems resulting from native title have just begun.

By forcing the mining industry to negotiate with native title claimants, this Bill will only exacerbate its problems. The Labor Party seems intent on widening the divisions within our society. The true nature of the Labor Party is seen clearly by this Bill. It is a divisive one and one of a weak nature—a nature of deceit and disrespect and a nature seemingly intent on destroying industry in this State. I believe that reality has never been a part of the native title debate. It is time to introduce some reality. We cannot do so in the Commonwealth legislation, but we can for Queensland. If the Labor Party has not got the sense or the guts to do so, then One Nation will.
