



Speech by

**Barbara Stone**

**MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD**

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2007

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## **LAND COURT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Ms STONE** (Springwood—ALP) (4.32 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise this afternoon to speak on this bill before the House. In particular, the member for Darling Downs will be interested in what I have to say because I am actually going to raise some points about the importance of the mining industry and how the changes will be positive for Queensland. This government recognises the importance of the mining industry to Queensland's growth. In its consideration of the reforms outlined in the bill, it has adequately provided for any impacts the amendments may have on the current mining supercycle that has occurred in this state over the past three years. Whilst there have only been small increases experienced in the number of mining related matters before the Land and Resources Tribunal over the past two years—it is estimated at 10 per cent per year—the government has made sure that there will be adequate resources for mining related processes in the few years ahead.

This bill ensures that the two experienced members from the Land and Resources Tribunal are offered appointments to the Land Court. One member with District Court status will be offered appointment as a Land Court member and the former Mining Referee will be offered appointment as an extra judicial registrar. This, together with the vast pool of experience already held by current Land Court members, will guarantee a seamless transfer of knowledge and provide for a smooth transition from the tribunal to the Land Court. There will be no impact on the streamlined procedures already made available to those parties involved in mining issues.

The increased jurisdiction for the Land Court has many advantages for the mining industry. The Land Court is enormously experienced in considering financial compensation issues arising from injurious affection of the land. This has been an important issue raised on several occasions by both representatives from the mining industry and rural interests. The Land Court will be able to easily apply that expertise in future issues of this nature that may arise in its jurisdiction. In addition, the newly acquired recommendatory jurisdiction of the Land Court will present no difficulty in practice to those Land Court members already used to hearing appeals from the Mining Warden pre 1999.

The Land Court Act provides for a similar informal atmosphere for all parties, including the mining industry, to that formerly experienced when appearing before the tribunal. This concept is preserved and maintained in the transfer of the jurisdiction from the tribunal to the Land Court where the degree of formality will vary depending on the matter before the court. Further, the government is giving additional resources to the Magistrates Court, District Court and Court of Appeal. The mining industry, like the rest of the community, will benefit from these additional resources. I am very pleased that I was able to inform the member for Darling Downs about this issue after I had a look at the bill. I commend the bill to the House.