



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Wednesday, 24 March 2010

NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (12.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. I have to comment first on the Forestry Plantations Queensland sell-off. The shadow minister and member for Callide said it beautifully yesterday. He made a very good point. It is never on a Tuesday but always on a Thursday that we deal with natural resources bills.

It reminded me of the old boxer. He is getting old and tired and starts to telegraph his punches. That is this government. 'Hang on, we have to get this sorted out. We cannot have a stuff-up on the sale of the forestry assets,' those opposite say. 'I know, we will sneak it through with a bunch of other stuff,' they say. That is how this all came about. 'We'll put a few other mildly contentious issues in the bill to try to distract them and just maybe we'll get away with it,' they think. The old boxer has just telegraphed his punches and here it is. It is shown up for what it is—a despicable sleight of hand to dud the Queensland public out of one of its own assets. This is an income-earning asset that would go on providing an income forever. It will be sold off to pay the piper at the worst possible time. It will be sold off to pay the interest on the debt that our grandchildren will still be paying off.

This government, in just a few years, has taken state debt from a barely manageable level of \$23 billion to around four times that amount. The amount of the interest on the debt in one year would resolve all the traffic congestion woes in my electorate and there would be money left over to work on the rail overcrowding as well.

It would fix the exit 38 congestion off Stapylton-Jacobs Well Road that is a nightmare every single day. It would fix the exit 41 ramping on the M1 where morning traffic queues back onto the M1, into traffic travelling at 110 kilometres an hour. At exit 45 it is doing the same thing in the afternoons. These are all safety issues and there is no plan to fix them. Exit 54 adjacent to the new Coomera Town Centre is already a nightmare. When construction commences on the new town centre it is going to be gridlock. There is no plan to fix the looming problem. I digress: I was talking about this government's sneaky way of rushing things through this parliament. This tired, old government telegraphs its sneaky way by changing the natural order of things.

There is one other area that deserves some focus—that is, ambulatory boundaries. I have a great deal of coastline and a great number of rivers in my electorate. These changes are going to affect some of my constituents. I accept and agree that we have to protect the rights of those who want to enjoy our beaches and riverside parks. This is a difficult area because it is open to interpretation. I reiterate the concerns of the member for Callide and say that it is important to consider the rights of landholders as well. There has to be a balance. The LNP will be opposing this bill because of the government's sneaky attempt to sell Queenslanders' publicly owned assets—our money-making forestry assets.