




Speech by

Dale Shuttleworth

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

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MINES LEGISLATION (STREAMLINING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferny Grove—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise in support of the Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012. This is an important bill that provides Queenslanders with increased surety in relation to the management of their natural resources and how we maximise our benefit of these resources to ensure that we draw a balance between financial outcomes, environmental sustainability and the impact the developments have upon local construction and infrastructure. Whilst there are no mines within my electorate of Ferny Grove, in the most recent electorate overview it is reported to contain 23 operating mining companies; 22 companies associated with utilities, including gas; 508 companies providing professional, technical and scientific services; 806 construction companies; and 20 ICT companies. While there is no guarantee that these figures equate to the number of operating businesses within areas specifically impacted by this legislation, I am sure that the companies operating either directly or peripherally to the mining industry and support services will be watching the passage of this bill with great interest.

This bill will ensure that the Newman government takes another huge step towards delivering upon our core election commitments to reduce the time and regulatory burden associated with operations within the mining sector, and to ensure that this is achieved the bill delivers the following policy objectives: clarification of the legislative framework in as much as it relates to the resource industry and compulsory acquisition of land; modernisation of the tenure administration system to reduce the time taken for each decision, that is, streamlining of approvals; clarification of the application of relevant hazardous chemical and hazardous facilities acts; and support for coal seam gas to liquified natural gas projects throughout Queensland.

Businesses throughout the Ferny Grove electorate that are either directly or peripherally associated with this sector are looking forward to their government providing them with this increased surety and stability, mitigating risks and providing a regulatory framework that is unambiguous. They want a framework that ensures that our management of resources and the environment are sustainable and that the beneficial outcomes for one are not necessarily mutually exclusive to the benefit and sustainability of the other. Businesses want to conduct their affairs with a government that empowers operations rather than constricts them, that promotes sustainability rather than ignores it, a government that has a long-term vision for success and co-existence rather than a short-term grab of resource profits.

With collaborative and consultative engagement, this government has prepared this bill to largely align with legislation within other jurisdictions and provide the outcome to align with expectations of all interested parties. One of the most significant interested parties is of course the Queensland government and the people of Queensland. The impact upon the first objective, that of compulsory acquisition and the clear advantage to the Queensland people, is evident when reviewed as follows. Under the current legislation, exploration and mining tenements can be compulsorily acquired; however, the capacity to continue exploration or mining activities is extinguished. So what this bill will address is a capacity to allow co-existence with linear infrastructure projects and resource tenure holders. The benefit this provides to stakeholders and the people of Queensland is that the procurement of easements within existing

tenements is usually possible at a fraction of the cost and therefore significant and critical infrastructure will, in time, cost much less and be delivered far quicker than is possible under the existing legislation.

One aspect of this bill that shows a real and tangible example of the Newman government's can-do approach to business within Queensland is the common-sense amendments to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. The amendments ensure that the age-old economic principle of economies of scale can be applied to the emerging CSG and LNG industries to ensure that a more timely completion of deployment of infrastructure at lower costs will be possible. To analogise, in my last career I worked in the ICT sector. When building new communication networks, for years the ICT sector deployed using a hub-and-spoke type model—that is, where centralised servers can be accessed using routers, switches, hubs et cetera. This ensures that services can be obtained in regional areas with minimum deployment of network infrastructure. Similarly, in the future under the accords of this bill we may well see adjacent mining tenements sharing services such as access roads, network infrastructure, electricity and facilities for treatment of CSG brine and water. This hub-and-spoke model will translate into a shortened time to market for many sites and services that are shared. It also means that regulatory oversight of standards and compliance might well be enhanced by ensuring that smaller, less efficient operators may well outsource the complicated treatment and reporting of environmental compliance to larger centralised mining operations.

Earlier this afternoon we heard typical hysteria and scaremongering from the members for Bundamba and South Brisbane. They clearly do not understand the concepts of negotiation and collaboration with industry and partners. They said that the years of hard yards were undertaken earlier by Labor. However, without a win-win mentality when entering into negotiations—instead having a 'win at all costs' mentality—it is little surprise that very few of the outcomes that they wanted came to fruition and success. This bill presents as a win-win outcome. The stakeholders share in the benefits of a shorter time to market and in the increased likelihood of a high level of compliance to environmental standards through sharing of transportation and treatment facilities. Common sense would dictate that the best standards will be achieved more readily and more cost-effectively.

In fact, I envisage an immersing service industry being provided from those businesses within Ferny Grove being possible with the successful introduction of this bill. The bill provides a capacity for shared infrastructure between existing tenements and there will be a capacity for adjacent operations to share resources and ancillary operations such as those mentioned previously. Another significant modernisation this bill will enable is the introduction of online lodgement of documentation and management of resource permits. This online lodgement will significantly reduce the time between lodgement approvals, changes of ownership and the issuing of departmental requests. In the current dynamic, stimulated, up-beat and increasingly confident business community, this component of the bill removes many existing impediments to business. The combined efficiencies each aspect of the Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012 will deliver provide this fledgling industry with the leg-up required to ensure that current barriers of entry and burden of red tape are lifted without compromising the stringent environmental safety standards required throughout the industry.

We all know that the current debt position of Queensland is unsustainable and that without these remedial actions this debt would have reached \$100 billion in 2018. With all other Australian states with a debt to revenue ratio at or below 100 per cent whilst in Queensland we are overburdened by a debt to revenue ratio approaching 150 per cent, something needed to be done to slow the slide towards this enormous level of debt. With Queensland being singled out in the recent Moody's report as having a high level of dependency on the mining sector, this bill ensures that the much needed revenue can be realised earlier than otherwise possible. Our government has again opened the door to business in Queensland, removed the burden of red tape and streamlined operations throughout the state.

I commend the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for the introduction of this bill and thank him for the contribution this bill will have in ensuring that the resources sector remains an integral pillar of our growing economy and will ensure that the Newman-led government does get Queensland back on track. I commend the bill to the House.