




Speech by

Ian Rickuss

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2012

MINES LEGISLATION (STREAMLINING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (4.10 pm): I rise with great glee to respond to the ridiculous statements that have just been put forward by the member for Bundamba. Unfortunately, she has done no research.

Mrs Miller: Yes, I have.

Mr RICKUSS: If she has been given information, she has been poorly misled. This bill—the Mining Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012—is the sort of bill that politicians come into the House to get passed. This is something which a politician can really get his teeth into, do some hard work and get things done. Who is doing it? The LNP members here. It is to see a wrong and right it; to help a community and fix it.

We heard a lot of banter about the communities that will be disadvantaged. What about communities like Ma Ma Creek in the Lockyer Valley? There are about 15 to 20 people, a few houses, a shop and a hall. You are ignoring those communities with your two-kilometre buffer for a thousand people. There is myriad small communities in my area, in the member for Whitsunday's area, in the member for Dalrymple's area, in the member for Warrego's area and in the member for Gregory's area that do not have a thousand people but still need protection and that is what our statutory planning will do. It is not about ignoring the poor small villages; it is about assisting the poor small villages that you have forgotten. That is why there are only seven of you sitting over there, because you forgot most of the state.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Lockyer will address his comments through the chair and refrain from using the word 'you' when addressing a member.

Mr RICKUSS: I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker. I must congratulate Minister Cripps, the Premier and the cabinet for introducing this legislation. It really is something that needed to be fixed. As the member for Bundamba said, the Resources Legislation (Balance, Certainty and Efficiency) Amendment Bill did have consultation. You highlighted the fact that there was a lot of consultation on that bill. That is the foundation for this bill. Unfortunately, a lot of the reports that were made did not understand that the statutory regulations were going to assist those small communities that everyone else had ignored. That is why this is such a good report into this legislation. It is absolutely disappointing when members of the opposition cannot grasp the whole concept of what is being done here. This legislation will improve the way the state does business.

The minister announced the MyMinesOnline website yesterday in parliament. That will definitely assist communities. It will assist communities of all sizes because they will be able to find that information out at the click of a few buttons on a computer. This is about saving the state unreasonable costs. Even the Environmental Defenders Office of North Queensland talked about this mining resource that the state owns which they wanted to compensate mining companies for. Let us be realistic: we the Queensland people own the resource. We are talking about the acquisition of land under railway lines and paying people for a resource that we the people own. Let us be realistic: the government is not some airy-fairy notion. The government is us. The government is the people of Queensland. Unfortunately, that is where

this delusional ALP has gone wrong. It has forgotten that it is the people of Queensland's money that makes up the government of Queensland's money, and the previous government spent it ridiculously.

We had a rant from the member for Bundamba about how they did the hard yards and we did not do the consultation. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot have done the hard yards but then there has been no consultation. Members on the committee grew up looking down at the Rosewood mine. The Krause family live at Tallegalla and overlook the mines at Rosewood which would be, what? About two or three kilometres away?

Mr Krause: About that.

Mr RICKUSS: I take that interjection.

Mrs MILLER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would just like to place on record—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bundamba, what is your point of order?

Mrs MILLER: My point of order is that it is not only the member for Beaudesert who might have grown up with the Rosewood mine.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! This is not a point of order. Please resume your seat.

Mrs MILLER: No, no, but I grew up with a mine under me.

Mr RICKUSS: It is a shame it wasn't a bomb.

Mrs MILLER: What was that?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Lockyer.

Mrs MILLER: No, I rise to a point of order. The member for Lockyer said, 'It's a shame it wasn't a bomb.'

Mr RICKUSS: Well, inferring to put a bomb under you.

Mrs MILLER: I take personal offence at that and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr RICKUSS: I withdraw that remark. Tallegalla is a small village of people and it would have been ignored under your legislation. There are not a thousand people there. Rosewood would have a thousand people in it but Tallegalla—

Mr Costigan: Alpha.

Mr RICKUSS: Alpha is another classic example. Those towns would have been ignored. That is the sort of thing that members opposite have totally ignored in this whole process. The minister gave a great explanation of how some of the issues raised in the report will be handled. It is important that we speak with industry bodies such as AgForce and QFF so people understand what is happening. But remember that most of this bill is about railway line easements and powerline easements—vital pieces of infrastructure that need to be tidied up. This legislation has gone on for years. How many mining legislation amendment bills have come into this House since I have been in parliament for eight years and since the member for Bundamba has been in here for 14 years that did not pick up this flaw that has now been picked up? Admittedly, probably some issues were picked up in 2009 when the review was done, but it has to be changed and it has to be changed now so there is certainty in these sorts of processes. Certainty is important because we need this sort of infrastructure.

I have seen the Deputy Premier come in here and highlight the fact that the rail corridors that have been put through are definitely important for the state of Queensland. It is important that we have this sort of infrastructure. The Gasfields Commission is another important initiative by this government that will make things better for Queenslanders. It will make things better for landholders. It is important that those sorts of commissions work, and work well. That is what we are talking about doing. The safety requirements of water pipelines have been mentioned. I sat here at a briefing two weeks ago when that issue was raised. Unfortunately, it can be covered under parts of the legislation, but it will still be reviewed further in the legislation. That is the sort of thing that we really need to happen, and I am glad to see the minister has highlighted that fact in his second reading speech. Compulsory acquisition really does need to happen that way. This whole report has been about hard work and getting it done. That is what the members of the LNP and members of the committee have done. We have worked extremely hard to get this done. I must congratulate Rob Hansen and the other members of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee secretariat. They do an excellent job. They highlight issues that are really important to the committee and make sure that we get the appropriate advice when we have inquiries.

The recommendations in this report are soundly based. They support good legislation that is important to Queensland and important to Queenslanders. This legislation needs to be passed so we can have a reasonable operating business in the state. The ranting we heard from the member for Bundamba just goes to show why Labor were so inept in government and why they are still inept in opposition. They just do not have it even at this stage. They have missed the point that this is about getting Queensland

back on track. That is what we are about—getting Queensland back on track, making sure the appropriate easements are in place and making sure there is certainty not only for Queenslanders but for landholders, mining resource companies and the legislative process so it works and it works well. That is what this is about. That is what we have done with this report and that is what the minister is doing with this legislation.