



Speech by


**Steve Davies**

**MEMBER FOR CAPALABA**

Hansard Wednesday, 22 August 2012

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## **MINES LEGISLATION (STREAMLINING) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (8.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012.

**Mr Rickuss:** This legislation is a bit like you: streamlined.

**Mr DAVIES:** I take that interjection. First, I would like to commend Minister Cripps on the great bill that he has put forward. As someone who is new to parliament but who has been a political observer for many years, I think it is refreshing to actually see someone well and truly across their brief. It is a great thing. Having seen the previous government and the way it promoted people into particular roles, I thought it was almost a case of 'jobs for the boys'. With the appointment of Mr Cripps to this portfolio, we definitely have a square peg in a square hole. It is a wonderful fit.

This bill goes towards fulfilling the LNP's promises to build a four-pillar economy. This particular pillar is the resources sector. I believe that this bill goes a long way towards fulfilling our promise to cut red tape. This bill will not only promote but also encourage the resources sector in Australia to become the world leader. I think at present, with a whole lot of different things happening in the mining sector—the mining tax, the carbon tax and so on—this sector of the economy needs all the help it can get. I commend this bill to the House for that reason.

This bill does cut red tape. It takes the shackles off the resources sector. I think it is very interesting that the previous speaker mentioned that BHP has downgraded its profit forecast. Not only that, in the last few hours it has announced that it is putting on hold its huge, \$30-billion Olympic Dam copper and uranium mine in South Australia. It says a whole lot that the current federal government is putting shackles on business while the government here in Queensland is trying to unshackle it. I call on Labor members here to talk to their colleagues in federal Labor to get rid of the mining tax and the carbon tax, which are affecting business right across the nation.

This particular bill is a result of the three reports that have been widely spoken about today. Those opposite have certainly made much of saying that there was not a lot of consultation on this bill. But there have been three reports over virtually three years. I think there has been plenty of consultation and it is time to get outcomes. That is what this government is all about.

This bill seeks to do a number of things. It seeks to modernise the tenure administration system and reduce the time taken for each tenure decision under the Streamlining Approvals Project. It also looks to clarify legislation so that resource activities, such as exploration, and development activities, such as transport and infrastructure development, can co-exist. It seeks to clarify an application of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to hazardous chemicals and major hazard facilities. Finally, it looks to support the delivery of coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas projects in Queensland. This is all about investment certainty. It empowers the resources sector. That is exactly what the LNP has been elected to do.

One of the other things this piece of legislation looks to bring in is MyMinesOnline, a program to scrap onerous paperwork and red tape. It gets rid of paperwork and puts in place an electronic process that will be much quicker and cleaner. I think we can contrast this to the opposition's From Mines to Minds proposal, which was a thought bubble that the Bligh government had in its dying moments which had no real outcomes, whereas we have made this happen. I commend the bill and the minister. I think it is a great opportunity to take Queensland forward and let us be the state that we need to be.