




Speech By  
**Robbie Katter**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA**

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## **ELECTRONIC CONVEYANCING NATIONAL LAW (QUEENSLAND) BILL**

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Electronic Conveyancing National Law (Queensland) Bill 2012 and acknowledge that it could potentially deliver great benefits to the isolated and remote areas in the north-west of Queensland, in the electorate of Mount Isa. The tyranny of distance between these centres and major regional cities on the Queensland coast has long been a hindrance for out-of-town investors looking for high-return rental properties, people transferred to Mount Isa or Cloncurry wishing to sell their properties elsewhere, and graziers and commercial business owners and managers who work with banks and real estate agents on multimillion dollar contracts.

The convenience and execution of e-conveyancing offers a quick-fire solution to vastly reducing the time limits between the signing of a contract and the final legal and financial approval of a property sale. I worked in a valuation business for 15 years all over the state—two years in Brisbane, Townsville and Mount Isa—and for seven years I owned my own business. So I was pretty close to the action when it came to property transactions. Continually we had issues. With declining staff numbers in even Townsville, Mount Isa and Cloncurry it became increasingly difficult to get good advice and to process paperwork. Issues also arise in terms of titles when we start to talk about title searches for freeholding lessees selling properties under that leasehold tenure that require ministerial consent. There are often lengthy time delays. I get a lot of people in my office complaining about those things. Anything that takes us in the right direction will lead to improvement for people in remote areas.

I also acknowledge that this bill will bring us into line with New South Wales and Victoria. Interstate nuances can often be frustrating and costly. I also commend the minister on retaining the current, old style paper conveyancing procedures until such time as e-conveyancing is unilaterally accepted, because some people have a lot of problems with it being phased out. Most of the other issues have already been addressed by previous speakers. I guess the major point is that this is a positive move forward. I commend the minister on the bill and I commend the bill to the House.