



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

**STATE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS ORGANISATION AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Motion: Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.36 pm): The members on this side of the House have had a lot to add to this debate, so I will be quite short. In speaking against the urgency of this bill, I would like to say that there is a diversity of views in the community and everyone has a right to be heard. Why is this issue so urgent that the minister needs to rush it through the House this week? Mr Speaker, as you are well aware, I know about this matter quite intimately as the project that the minister referred to resides smack bang in my electorate; the electorate that I am extremely proud of, as the minister knows. Over three years I have canvassed this issue quite extensively within my electorate. I stand in this House today because of the support of the people whose livelihoods are linked to the issue that is before the House.

I want to address the fact that the community can still have a say. The community has had a say in relation to these projects. Adjoining landholders do have a say. Farmers in the area have had a say. That is why the footprint of this mine is some 63 per cent smaller. The landholders did have a say. Tonight in this House I have not heard anything to explain why this issue is so urgent. The minister and the Deputy Premier have said that they are definite that this legislation must be passed urgently, but why are they scared of the people? Why are they scared of the people of the Nanango electorate? Why can't they take this to my community and hear their concerns? Unfortunately, their ears have been closed since I have been on this side of the House.

The member for Southern Downs and Leader of the Opposition talked about some 800 people walking through the streets of Oakey. I believe that there were quite a few more people than that. I have heard that there were in the vicinity of a couple of thousand people showing their support. They were genuine locals. They were the people who can and do have their say against projects that affect their back door. They are not the people living in New South Wales, they are not the people living in Far North Queensland and they are not the people living in the middle of the minister's electorate. This concerns the people in my electorate. If the government are so interested in their concerns, why don't they go out to my electorate and talk to those people, instead of bringing this urgency motion before the House to try to wreck their livelihoods and some 700 jobs? However, it is not just 700 jobs that are at stake; this project affects thousands and thousands of jobs right around the Darling Downs area.

I finally want to touch on what the Leader of the Opposition talked about and that is the honourable Premier's letter to you, Mr Speaker, dated 5 February. The Premier comes into this House and tells us that they are a government that listens and she is a Premier who listens.

How is this listening to the people of my electorate? They are not getting a say on this urgency motion. They are not getting a say on this bill that will be rushed through the House. It is hypocritical of those on the other side of the House and the Premier to move this urgency motion. It allows no time for anyone to do anything before we debate this bill on, I imagine, Friday.

There was no consultation with the opposition. I have had an opportunity over the dinner break to talk to the shadow minister, the honourable Andrew Cripps, about this. Has he heard from the minister? He was not even given the courtesy by the minister of half an hour before the motion was moved in the House, the minister saying to him, 'Shadow minister, let me consult with you. Let us not be arrogant about this. Let us not be hypocritical. Let us consult.' Common courtesy was not extended to the local member whom this affects the most nor the shadow minister for mines. This is an absolutely hypocritical government. I urge the House to vote this urgency motion down.