




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2015

**MOTION: AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.11 pm): I am so pleased to stand in this House and follow that absolute diatribe. I am so pleased that the Deputy Premier has stood in this House and shown her true colours. I am so pleased that all of the farmers, graziers, interest groups and our very important agricultural regional/rural sector media are watching this debate on television tonight because the Deputy Premier has stood in this House and shown her true colours.

The amendment moved by the Deputy Premier speaks about consultation. When the Deputy Premier alludes to consultation in her amendment to the motion, does she mean consultation with our rural and regional people like the consultation undertaken with commercial fishermen? Does she mean consultation like the consultation the minister for agriculture is having with affected people and landholders along the tick line? I digress to say that they informed me that they have already started consultation with the people of the South Burnett. When I inquired I found out that they have consulted three people. They believe that is enough consultation for all of the landholders along the tick line.

It is incredible that the Deputy Premier stood up in this House and gave a massive backhander to the people of Queensland. If I can be really clear, the motion was about common sense. It was about using a lever that governments have. As the member for Hinchinbrook said, there are ways in which a government can help financially, but there are only so many levers that government can pull. One of the levers this government could use to support rural and regional people relates to leaving our vegetation framework in place. That framework needs to be left in place because it is giving our landholders security. It is giving them faith to stay on their land until it rains.

I cannot adequately express the seriousness of this. It is about the security of business decisions that these landholders make. I know that it is difficult for the Deputy Premier and her friends on that side of the House to understand the practices of rural and regional people. If the change comes in and it is hanging over the heads of our producers, how many people will we see just packing up their kit and walking off their land? Landholders are on the edge.

The changes to the vegetation management framework introduced by the LNP government have had a dramatic effect on the graziers in the electorates of Gregory and Warrego. Right now the central west is in the grip of the worst drought in living memory. The drought is now creeping towards the east of the state. The last thing these graziers need is to go back to the bad old days of the laws introduced by the Beattie Labor government. We all remember how when the Labor government came to power it demonised and attacked—just as the Deputy Premier has done tonight—our landholders for doing what they know best—not what the crazy green groups know, not trying to get votes in Ashgrove, South Brisbane or Mount Coot-tha. They are building a livelihood for the next generation of Queenslanders who want to go on to the land, who want to feed and clothe the next generation of people to live in South Brisbane and Ashgrove.

This is not about supporting the union thugs over there; it is about supporting our farmers and giving them a lever to use by good business practices and being able to escape this dark cloud that is hanging over their head. I pray to God that it will rain, but in the meantime please at least give our farmers some security.