




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (REINSTATEMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL, REPORTING DATE**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.53 pm): I rise to speak against the government motion by supporting the amendment moved by the Leader of Opposition Business in the House. A couple of weeks ago the *Queensland Country Life* had on its front page the words 'a kick in the guts' and that is exactly what this government is doing to us again. I am talking about the kick in the guts—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, they may be words that the *Queensland Country Life* want to use, but they are certainly not appropriate words in the chamber. I urge you to withdraw those words in relation to 'kick in the guts'.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. What we are talking about here tonight is exactly how the *Queensland Country Life* put it a couple of weeks ago. When I have to sit here and listen to the Minister for Natural Resources tell my constituents that this is not complex, I take offence to that. This is complex; it is extraordinarily complex. More than that, the Minister for Natural Resources told this House that farmers knew this was coming. I have never seen this before. This bill has first of all come into the House presented by the Deputy Premier after she took it off the Minister for Natural Resources. Like the member for Callide said, there is more in this bill that is proposed by the Deputy Premier than ever has been proposed before. We need time to look at this bill and consult with people through the committee process if that is the way it is to go.

I heard the deputy chair of the relevant committee, the member for Burnett, talk about what they are going to do for Easter. Whilst I really do feel for the committee members, honestly they are the least of our concerns. Our concerns reside with the long list of people and the long list of landholders who have not been consulted. The member for Bulimba read out a list of people who had been consulted. I did not hear one landholder's name; I did not hear one farmer's name. The closest to that we heard was AgForce. I can tell the House right now that a lot of my constituents are members of AgForce and they have never seen this and they have certainly not seen the explanatory notes that I am holding in my hand right now.

Those people need time. They need the time to get to Brisbane and front the committee—unless this committee is going to spend months upon months travelling the state and actually getting out there and talking to the people that this affects. I would like the committee to go right out west and see how it is out there. I would like them to travel all the way through Queensland. I expect that my constituents and the member for Callide's constituents—as well as the constituents of the members for Mount Isa, Gregory, Warrego, Burnett and everywhere throughout Queensland—will want to have a say. This is a very emotive issue, like it has been said many times.

I have taken offence to a lot of things that have been said in this House tonight. One of the things I probably have taken the biggest offence to is the fact that the member for Ashgrove compared landholders to criminal motorcycle gangs in relation to the urgency motion that we are debating here tonight.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. I am more than happy to take that interjection because it was not only the member for Ashgrove who said that; the member for South Brisbane also compared this legislation to the VLAD laws.

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the parliament. I did not, and I find those remarks offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. On numerous occasions, I heard members opposite refer to the urgency motion and relate it to the VLAD laws. I put it to you, Mr Speaker, and to this House that what we are debating here tonight is extraordinarily different to the VLAD laws. We are talking about constituents all the way through the state who need the opportunity to consult on this. It is absolutely incredible to me that the Minister for Natural Resources obviously has not spoken to the Deputy Premier lately or the Deputy Premier has not spoken to the minister because he rabbited on about the amount of consultation that he supposedly had—yet the Deputy Premier's own green states, 'Limited consultation was undertaken in the development' of this bill.

It cannot get any clearer than that. We hear that people have been waiting since the election to have this done. The constituents out there have been waiting to work out when the hammer is going to fall on their businesses. What are they going to say to their bank manager? What are they saying to the next generation when they are trying to work out whether to pass on the family farm? Who knows when we have a Labor government that does not care about the rural and regional areas? They are not giving people out there time. They are certainly not allowing the parliamentary process to take place.

I cannot wait to hear what the Minister for Agriculture is going to talk about if she does contribute to the debate on this urgency motion. In relation to the agricultural community of Queensland, I can tell honourable members that from the minute that the Deputy Premier stood up my phone has been running hot. The agricultural community of Queensland—

Ms Grace: Show us.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would be happy to. The agricultural community of Queensland are completely mortified. They are not surprised by this Premier and Deputy Premier because that is what they expected on the election night.

Mr SPEAKER: I urge the member for Nanango to make her comments relevant to the amendment before the House.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would also like to take slight offence at the comments of the member for Ferny Grove when he called this process a waste of time for taxpayers. That is what the next four weeks are going to be: it is going to be a waste of time for taxpayers. I am sorry, but I am pretty sure that a lot of the people that his legislation is going to affect are taxpayers of Queensland as well. His shallowness towards these people of Queensland is absolutely incredible.

The last note that I want to pick up on is the distance that people have to travel throughout the state. While we are really pleased to see some of those rains and, in fact, flooding out in Western Queensland, I would put to the House that that would make it even more difficult for some of those people to be a participant in such a short period given that Easter is in between as well.

I certainly support the amendment to the motion that would extend the time the bill is before the committee, but I would like to put on record how adamantly I am opposed to the legislation that was put before this House by the Deputy Premier.