




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2016

PUBLIC HEALTH (WATER RISK MANAGEMENT) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.17 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Public Health (Water Risk Management) Amendment Bill 2016. I join with the LNP opposition in showing our support for this bill, but I do want to make a few points. This bill helps our hospitals improve the management and control of health risks associated with the supply and use of water in hospitals and residential care facilities with particular focus on the legionella bacteria. It will also make more transparent the water testing undertaken by those facilities.

The changes to the legislation have been brought about following the recommendations from a review into the prevention and control of legionella infection in Queensland which was completed under the former LNP government in June 2013. As we have heard from previous speakers, to achieve this healthcare providers will be required to establish water risk management plans which are recognised internationally as the most effective method of managing the health risk associated with waterborne infectious diseases to protect injured, frail and vulnerable members of the community who are being cared for by our aged-care facilities and hospitals. This is a good outcome in respect of preventing legionella infection.

I want to take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the government, in particular the Health minister, the public hospitals in my electorate. The staff at these hospitals work hard, and will continue to work hard, to implement this new legislation under, to some extent, more onerous and difficult circumstances. As the minister well knows, in my electorate the majority of public hospitals are in desperate need of funding injections for upgrades or, indeed, complete replacements. Those hospitals are at Esk, Kilcoy, Nanango and Kingaroy. I will focus on the Kingaroy Hospital, as I have been fighting for that hospital to be upgraded since I came into this place.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order on relevance to the bill. We are talking about the water risk management at hospitals. Unless the member wishes to address water risk management, she is not strictly relevant to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): There is no point of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I assure the House that I am on topic as the water risk management program is an issue for the Kingaroy public hospital, given the age of that hospital.

Mr Dick: Put the problem on the record. If there is a problem, tell me.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is exactly what I am speaking to. What the staff have to do in that very aged hospital is incredible. They will be working towards—

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, you have had your turn.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: At the Kingaroy Hospital, the emergency department desperately needs to be upgraded, if not completely replaced. Whilst we are talking about this very important legislation that is before the House, on behalf of all the administrators and the workers in that hospital I put on record a concern about the introduction of more onerous legislation. I note from the committee report that the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service, in the electorate of the member for Callide, outlined their concern about the extra work that this legislation may mean for their health board, given a possible lack of funding in certain places.

I put on the record my concerns about the age of the hospitals in my electorate. I call on this Labor government to address the health concerns of facilities in my electorate. Again, I state my support for the bill.