



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2016

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Crows Nest, Pedestrian Crossing; Vegetation Management Forums**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.25 pm): I would like to highlight some important community meetings which have taken place in the electorate of Nanango recently which I believe demonstrate what can be achieved when people come together to fight for a cause. Firstly, the Crows Nest community held a town meeting with me a few weeks ago to discuss the safety of their pedestrian crossing. The pedestrian crossing has been a long-term issue affecting the residents and I have been working with them to try to find a solution. The crossing is on the New England Highway and it cuts right through the middle of the Crows Nest town centre. Many elderly people use the crossing to access the main shopping district. They have to cross at the crossing to get to the local shops. Unfortunately, as the crossing is located on that busy highway, cars and trucks are not always travelling at a slower speed and sometimes they neglect to see the crossing and there have been many near misses.

While some of the works have now been undertaken to try to improve safety, the community and I were still not happy with the outcome. Carol Pearce from Chic Shoe Shop in Crows Nest—a great spot to find shoes if anyone is going to Crows Nest—decided enough was enough and organised the community meeting with me. I was happy to assist Carol by addressing the meeting along with inviting representatives from the department to attend. More than 60 interested residents came along and it was an excellent opportunity for everyone to have their say and come up with possible solutions.

I really want to thank Carol and, in particular, Leanne Hughes who emceed the meeting and all of those who attended and contributed their thoughts. The outcome has been excellent. The community has now formed a small action group. They have come up with the Crows Nest community pedestrian crossing action plan, which will be workshopped with TMR. I am hopeful that a good outcome will be achieved. I ask the minister to also consider the hard work being undertaken by this community on this issue.

I also want to thank and congratulate more than 150 people who attended the vegetation management forums in Kingaroy and in Toogoolawah. They were there to hear how these aggressive amendments to the vegetation management framework will affect their businesses. At this point I would like to thank the shadow minister for natural resources, Andrew Cripps, who travelled to my electorate to attend these meetings.

The level of concern was obvious. Right across my region landholders are reporting that the new restrictions on their properties are greater than under the previous Bligh Labor government—in particular, regrowth being reclassified as remnant vegetation and category R vegetation being regulated in my area for the first time. I appreciated the number of excellent questions and interest. We were able to help explain how landholders could provide access to these updated vegetation management maps and what action they can take to let this government know that they are not happy.