



Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2016

MOTION

**Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill**



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.00 pm): I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing or sessional orders, debate of the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill take precedence over all other government business until the bill is passed or disposed of.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is certainly no friend of rural and regional Queensland. This Palaszczuk Labor government is hell-bent on destroying jobs in the Darling Downs and in Central and North Queensland. Today's rally outside of this parliament by farmers, employees and supporters of the New Hope revised stage 3 project on the Darling Downs shows how desperate this community—how desperate those approximately 700 attendees—is to convince this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government how much they need certainty. They need certainty around their jobs. They had the tag line 'save our jobs'. They went down there to the Speakers' Corner and they asked for these ministers, the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Mines, to go down and answer their questions. I note that the Minister for Environment did say that he was going to talk to the workers later this week. I asked many people at that rally how many had received an invitation to that meeting. It appears that unless people are a member of the CFMEU they are not considered to be a worker by this minister. I will be interested to see how many of those 700 workers actually get to meet this minister.

This is the same Labor government that promised to listen to Queenslanders, but it is different when it comes to this issue. We know that this government is totally incompetent. They cannot even manage to get Queenslanders home from Melbourne Cup day without messing it up. Both New Hope and Adani are dead in the water if this Palaszczuk Labor government gets its way. The Premier pays lip-service across Queensland about jobs, but at the end of the day it is just cheap talk. There is no follow-up in relation to jobs—no follow-up at all.

The Premier has a long history of saying one thing to Queensland faces and then doing the complete opposite in Brisbane, and there is a word in the dictionary for that. Annastacia Palaszczuk has form on the board when it comes to frustrating major job-creating projects in this state, and Adani and New Hope are no exception. Her government has continually imposed road blocks at every turn for these two projects—this time changing the goalposts surrounding groundwater laws—and these projects need certainty. This Labor government has made it much easier for 'lawfare' activists to frustrate these mining projects in court—something that has the prints of those opposite all over it. These groups, often secretly foreign funded, are placing thousands and thousands of Queenslanders' jobs in jeopardy, not to mention the millions of dollars that flow into my local community. They say actions speak louder than words. To date, the Palaszczuk Labor government's actions in trying to kill off coalmining in this state have been louder than its cheap words to Queenslanders.

Rural and regional Queensland are crying out for jobs. They are crying out for business opportunities and, as we have seen today from the over 700 farmers, landholders and miners who congregated down there on Speakers' Corner, they are screaming out for this government to listen to them. However, the government's ears were completely closed to those 700 people who were out there. Like we said, if they are relying on the Palaszczuk Labor government to listen to rural and regional Queensland, they are sadly disappointed.

Projects like these two have gone through rigorous environmental assessments over a number of years. New Hope started that approval process in 2007. Adani started the approval process in 2010. They have strict conditions on their approvals in relation to groundwater. They must undertake regular monitoring and reporting, but both these projects need certainty.

Labor say they care about the economic development of rural and regional Queensland and jobs in regional Queensland, but this government wants to bring in a bill that will risk thousands upon thousands of Queenslanders' livelihoods, particularly on the Darling Downs and up in Central and North Queensland. Make no mistake about it: the real activists in all of this are Annastacia Palaszczuk and her green mates.