



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**New Hope Acland Coalmine**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): All of us in this House, I would hope, love our own communities. I love the 38-odd communities that I represent. I love the diversity and the people, and we all are elected in this House to do the right thing by our electorates. Last night in this House we saw the callous disregard for one community over another. We saw backroom deals that secure the future of one community at the sheer disregard of another community, and not just a small community—a large area of the Darling Downs. It is incredible to me that the community around the New Hope Acland coalmine proposal has just been delivered such a horrendous blow. After 700 people protested on Speakers' Corner pleading for this Palaszczuk government to do something about this proposal, their pleas have not been heard. The New Hope Acland proposal is the most scrutinised mine in Australia's history. Since 2007 this proposal has been through the wringer. Their employees have been through the wringer.

As a good community representative, as we are meant to be, the LNP scrutinised that mine as well. We put it out to public consultation and through that process it was amended by some 63 per cent. We also listened to the calls to not mine the actual township of Acland—tick, done! We listened to the calls to move the coal dump—tick, done! We listened to the calls not to move the creek and divert the creek. Of course, that was also done. This proposal that employs thousands of people and creates billions of dollars for the Darling Downs, Queensland and Australian economies has been trashed by this incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government that has a callous disregard for my community over another community. What background deals were done when this mine had been through the same approval processes to one in North Queensland? Of course, we do not begrudge North Queensland and Central Queensland for their mine. They deserve the mine as much as my community around the Darling Downs. I want to thank the community leaders such as Mayor Paul Antonio, industrialists such as the Wagner family, New Hope mine, all of the workers, TSBE and—

*(Time expired)*