




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.39 am): I rise to make a contribution to this debate. I fully agree with the member for Mermaid Beach, who called for an extension of time. This is a very complicated issue, and we discussed another one earlier today, the North Stradbroke Island issue. It was also a very complicated report and it was granted an extension. The same should be done here.

I come from a farming background, so I can speak to this firsthand. I come from Cecil Plains. We had property on the black soil which was high agricultural land and we also had a block on which we ran cattle on the other side of Cecil Plains which was more of a sandy block. On the black soil I spent all my time trying to control turnip and burr. On the other block I spent all my time trying to control cypress pine, bull oak and ironbark. When the laws were introduced I well remember the difficulties I had getting my mapping right. I ended up to talking to Stephen Robertson, who was the minister at the time, so I know how time consuming that role is.

It is just not possible for this committee to try to get across all those issues in 19 days. I was listening to people talk about the bill and some of the things in it and they are very broad, sweeping statements. Country varies from one end of Queensland to the other. There is light sandy, loamy soil and heavy clay soil. Some of the things that are in here would be destructive on some of those soils. The legislation needs wider consultation.

I have heard a lot about consultation, and I have heard AgForce mentioned many times. AgForce does a good job, but not every landholder is in AgForce. There are an awful lot of landholders who are not AgForce, especially in the west and up north in that cattle area. These are the ones we really have to feel for. As has been pointed out in relation to those 19 days, Easter falls within that and school holidays. These people have their kids at home for the holidays and they would like to spend some time with them. Instead of that, we are asking them to put submissions together for this committee.

There has been talk about whether the committee has time to put this together. It is not about them; it is about the landholders. There seems to be an idea that these landholders are out on their verandas, sitting in their squatters chair, sipping tea and wondering how they are going to fill in their days. That is not the case. These are busy people. The members for Dalrymple and Mount Isa will tell honourable members that many of them have very poor internet access. They have to put a submission together or they will have to leave their properties and come down here and put a submission together. It is not possible. It is too much of an ask. These people need more time if the government is going to allow them to have a say in this.

The trouble with those people out there is that this will affect their property values. We are hitting them with this at the worst possible time, when they are at their lowest ebb. They are fighting drought, carting water and carting feed for their stock. This is a horrible time to drop this into their lap. I really worry about the mental health of some of these people when they read about this tomorrow.

I note that the member for Noosa made a comment earlier about the speaking list. I looked at that list as well and noticed the seats that are represented therein. I also looked at the primary green vote in those seats and it became very apparent why they were so keen to be on this list. I strongly oppose the motion put forward by the member for South Brisbane. Nineteen days is nowhere near long enough. I support the extension of time.