




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

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

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.11 pm): I move the following amendment—

That the motion be amended by omitting the words '15 April 2016' and inserting the words '30 June 2016'.

This is an amendment to the Deputy Premier's motion which changes the date from 15 April 2016 to 30 June 2016. In moving this amendment, I agree entirely with the comments you made, Mr Speaker, in your decision to support the affirmative part of this question in the House in terms of going forward with this legislation. What you clearly said in underwriting going forward with the consideration of this legislation in this House is that you want a proper, full parliamentary committee inquiry into this matter. I could not agree with you more on that, and you will have that if we change the date to 30 June.

In this legislation there are people's lives at stake, there are people's investments at stake and there are people's jobs at stake. This needs to be carefully considered and there needs to be an opportunity for the parliamentary committee to travel Queensland. They need to go to those many outward areas that will be affected by this legislation so that the real picture can be determined. The parliamentary committee needs to make a recommendation so that this House can consider the legislation in a proper manner. Mr Speaker, you will then get to cast your vote in a proper manner, being fully informed of the results of the parliamentary committee inquiry into the matter.

The Deputy Premier herself has said that it is retrospective legislation applying from today. That means if this legislation is passed then it applies from today, but that does not inhibit the inquiry from going ahead for the next few months to get that report back date of 30 June. We need to get a full and proper process in place to consider this legislation appropriately, rather than having it delivered into the House late on a Thursday night for specific media reasons to drive the Deputy Premier's agenda in terms of the groups that she supports. It does not give full and proper consideration of a very important piece of legislation in this House.

The minister quoted matters back to me in terms of consideration in previous times. Mr Speaker, as you are well aware, the CLA has come to an agreement, which government members are well aware and supportive of, that unless there is an urgent bill and we have made allowance for an urgent bill—and this has not been declared an urgent bill—then six weeks will be the minimum for consideration of bills before the House. The CLA has agreed to that, under your guidance, Mr Speaker. The bills affected basically cannot be major threats to people's investments, lifestyles and jobs throughout the state.

I go back to the importance of the date in this particular debate. The ridiculous date of 15 April was put forward by the Deputy Premier on a whim to satisfy groups that have obviously been hunting her down for the last 14 months since the election in terms of her support at the last election. That date was chosen to get this legislation through as quickly as possible. Quite clearly, this is not a matter that

we can deal with lightly. We have got Easter in that period between now and 15 April. Obviously, that is going to take out movement around the state for a lot of families and a lot of people on that committee. What the Deputy Premier suggests is an absolute nonsense.

Mr Speaker, in terms of having a process so that you and every other member in this House can carefully consider comments from AgForce and every other individual person who has a right to have input into this legislation that will change their life, there needs to be a proper consultation period, and that can be achieved by 30 June. Yes, we will come back and run through all the pros and cons of this bill, but we would have got full and comprehensive feedback into all the matters raised by the shadow minister and people from different areas. We will then be able to deal with this matter in a proper and considered way and the legislation can be dealt with by this House. Mr Speaker, you will be able to make your decision on this very sensitive area. This affects your area of Nicklin because these matters affect the livelihoods, job prospects and investments in your particular area. This is a fair and reasonable amendment to the motion the Deputy Premier has moved. I suggest that this House support that reporting date.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mermaid Beach, I understand the rules require that the amendment be circulated prior to it being moved. I have overlooked that because your amendment is very simple, but I take it that you will put it in writing shortly to meet and comply with that requirement.

Mr STEVENS: Correct.