




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (10.25 pm): I am very pleased to see the passage of the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The bill has three major components: reinstatement of notification and objection rights and the specification of restricted access. The MOLA Bill reinstates public notification requirements and objection rights for standard or variation applications for environmental authorities relating to mining leases. The requirement to publicly notify mining lease applications by means of a newspaper notice allows community members to be informed of due processes and to have input on matters that affect them. It also restores objection rights previously removed by the MER(CP) Act introduced by the LNP which amended these provisions to limit objection rights to affected persons and additionally reduced the grounds of objection. However, it essentially removed the voice of communities, farmers and landowners. These provisions were originally put in place by the LNP government's Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act.

Landowner rights were eroded in dealing with resource companies. The LNP's MER(CP) Act gave the minister powers to extinguish restricted land for mining leases or to grant mining leases over restricted land where no consent or compensation has been agreed to. I am pleased that under the MOLA Bill the definition of 'restricted land' is to include areas within 50 metres of a principal stockyard, artesian wells, bores, dams and water storage facilities. The restricted land framework applies to all resource authorities, including petroleum leases. It is a good thing that the distance between mining operations and significant agricultural infrastructure be enshrined in legislation. We are also pleased that the proposed changes would not allow mining leases to be granted over restricted land where landowner consent had not been given.

The LNP bill that removed the objection rights in respect of the grant of mining leases was a low act. The committee's report proved there was a lack of frivolous claims. The Land Court has the power to strike out any objection that is outside the jurisdiction of the court, vexatious, frivolous or an abuse of the court process. The MOLA Bill restores a sensible balance between the rights of landowners and the rights of miners. I congratulate the committee on its work on this bill. I am pleased to support the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.