




Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2016

**WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
(UNDERGROUND WATER MANAGEMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.29 pm): In speaking to both bills, I can say that the most important thing is the balance between the large and equally important sectors of mining, grazing and agriculture. We need to find a middle ground because without all of these industries we will battle to survive. It is important to focus on removing the potential red tape from the existing projects like Adani to secure jobs in the region, while securing water rights for landowners, farmers, graziers and all primary producers, improving make-good arrangements and the eligibility for compensation and supporting better coverage to the types of bores, impacts and additional protection. It is understandable why landowners have been gutted by the coal seam gas companies, where they have sucked the aquifers dry and have left the farmers who irrigate crops with up to 30,000 gallons an hour with only 300 gallons.

While supporting mining developments, we still expect any mining project to follow due process in dealing with impacts of the underground water before the mine is granted access. However, we do not want to force projects that have already been through these rigorous processes back into the courts. Adani has been through all of these processes—the Land Court, the environmental authority, mining licences and 99 per cent of the make-good arrangements. This project will see not only massive jobs for workers in rural and regional Queensland but the flow-on effects spread right through the communities, such as Rockhampton, Cairns, Townsville and also Brisbane. By supporting the EPOLA bill without the amendments, it will see this project that has the potential to start digging within 18 months fail. I have been advised that one of the smaller mines in the Galilee Basin, such as Macmines, is larger than one of the largest mines in the Bowen Basin.

We also have great concerns with the removal of water development options as described in the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 introduced by the member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, that it will be extinguishing the government's Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. Extinguishing the water development options at a time when this state is crying out for development will send us backwards. The Mount Isa projects, the Flinders River shire council Flinders River project, the Pentland Biofuels Project, the Big Rocks upstream weir—all of these projects will be at risk if those water development options are removed. This legislation without amendment has the potential to restrict mining, stymie water development and cost jobs. The KAP will be moving amendments during the consideration in detail stage to restore balance.