



Speech By  
**Andrew Cripps**


**MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2017

**MOTION**

**Military Training Areas**

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (5.59 pm): I want to associate myself with the contribution made by the Leader of the Opposition earlier this afternoon. He made a series of valid points, first and foremost the view of the LNP opposition here in Queensland—that is, that the approach of the Australian Defence Force in relation to its communications with those property owners who were going to be potentially affected by this proposal was wrong. It was inappropriate, it was unprofessional and it failed to communicate effectively why it was putting this proposal forward and it did not give the respect that those landowners deserved when they were being approached in relation to the proposal that was being put forward. When you move a motion like this one that the Minister for Agriculture has moved tonight, you ought to bring to the House a shred of credibility in terms of your track record as a government of how you treat landowners in Queensland. My friend the member for Gympie, who interjected a moment ago, mentioned one of the great travesties of public administration in Queensland when the government of Peter Beattie, a former premier, compulsorily acquired 500 properties in the Mary Valley for the Traveston Dam and wasted half a billion dollars of taxpayers' money in Queensland as a result.

The Minister for Agriculture coming in here and trying to cloak himself in some sort of credibility when dealing with Queensland landowners is an absolute disgrace. The Minister for Agriculture's contribution to the debate tonight had two things in it. He mentioned principles and he mentioned his concern about the beef supply chain in Queensland. Where was the Minister for Agriculture's concern about any impact on the beef supply chain in Queensland last year when that government tried to railroad Queensland farmers and graziers with its vegetation management legislation to effectively pinch land off people so they could not use it anymore for productive purposes? He is in here tonight squealing about the potential impact on the beef supply chain, but he was dead silent last year when that government was attacking Queensland's graziers and compromising the beef supply chain in Queensland.

We are talking about proposed resumptions of grazing land in Queensland. The other thing that the House ought to know about and that needs to be drawn to the attention of the House is the diabolical policy of that government over there in relation to the Delbessie Agreement in 2007. This is what used to happen to graziers in Queensland that had pastoral leases coming up for renewal: the government would wait until that lessee was coming to the end of their occupancy of the land and then little people from the Minister for the Environment's department would come out with their clipboards and trample all over their property and they would take the best stuff—they would take the stuff that had been looked after by those graziers—and then the department would put them over a barrel and say, 'If you don't agree to cede part of your property to us so that we can turn it into a national park, we won't renew your lease.' Those people over there used to put graziers over a barrel as a matter of course, as a matter of public policy—and here is the proof! The Target Delivery Plan 2011-12—Toward Q2—on page 11 of that document, which I will table, under the heading 'Delbessie process' states—

The Delbessie agreement facilitates the acquisition of lands of strategic importance upon lease expiry ...

Page 11 of that document continues—

Long-term estimated impact—this will be a major component of purchases between 2012 and 2020, with total estimated land being 1 million hectares that may be suitable for protection.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland government: Target Delivery Plan 2011-12: Green target to protect 50 per cent more land for nature consideration and public recreation' [185].

Three times the land that was proposed to come out for the Shoalwater Bay and Charters Towers resumptions was going to be taken in a matter of eight years by Labor governments opposite by putting landowners over a barrel and threatening them with not giving them a lease renewal if they did not cede part of their property for a national park. You are rank hypocrites! You are a bunch of disgraceful hypocrites and I cannot believe that you would come out and move this motion tonight with a track record of hypocrisy that is beyond belief. You have to have a shred of credibility to move these motions, and those opposite have none!

*(Time expired)*