




Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Wild Rivers Legislation

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.56 pm): I rise to inform the House of the impacts of any return of wild rivers or pristine rivers policies by the Palaszczuk Labor government on the communities of south-west Queensland and the Cooper Basin and electricity costs across the state. I am advised that state Labor passed a motion at its 2017 annual conference to introduce pristine rivers legislation and that the loony left are secretly drafting the changes in a desperate bid to secure Greens preferences. There has been no consultation with those who live or work in the Cooper Basin. This is another example of Labor putting the jobs of inner-city MPs ahead of the jobs of regional Queenslanders.

Any reintroduction of the wild rivers or pristine rivers legislation framework will shut down the resources industry and jobs in outback towns like Quilpie and Thargomindah and will increase red tape for landholders across the Channel Country. In the Cooper Basin, petroleum products have been produced for the past 60 years and landholders have been managing the land for over 130 years. That the Cooper Basin is seen by outsiders to be pristine is testament to the good management practices of the resources industry and local landholders. Natural gas sourced from the Cooper Basin is an essential source of energy for manufacturers and of electricity during times of peak demand. Ethane produced in the Cooper is used in Australian stretch wrapping for food, packaging, water tanks, wheelie bins and the lining of our milk and juice cartons.

Labor claims to support gas production, with Minister Anthony Lynham saying that any plan to shut down gas production across Queensland would drive up electricity prices and cost jobs across industry, particularly manufacturing. He must be very embarrassed with his colleagues trying to shut down the resources industry in the Cooper Basin.

As we read in the *Brisbane Times*, Anastacia Palaszczuk claims that she will not do any deals with One Nation, and her party is not below pandering to them on policy to win preferences. A case in point is this decision from Labor to join One Nation's policy of banning further gas development in the Cooper Basin in south-west Queensland. Petroleum and gas developments in the Channel Country are subject to strict controls through the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014 and the Channel Country is a strategic environmental area put in place by the LNP whilst in government, and these are some of the strictest controls in any part of Queensland. Given these strict controls that are in place, the only reason one can conclude that Labor and One Nation are joining forces to ban the resources development in the Cooper Basin is for preferences and the people who live in those communities and depend on those livelihoods in places such as Quilpie and Thargomindah have every right to be furious as their futures are being used as political pawns.