




Speech By  
**Craig Crawford**

**MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 September 2017

**LAND ACCESS OMBUDSMAN BILL; GASFIELDS COMMISSION AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (8.19 pm): I rise very briefly to support the Gasfields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 and the Land Access Ombudsman Bill 2017. The GasFields Commission is an independent statutory body created to manage and improve sustainable coexistence between rural landholders, regional communities and the onshore gas industry.

Late in 2015 the Premier and Minister for the Arts committed to an independent review of the commission. I understand that extensive community consultation was undertaken during the review of the commission between March and July 2016. The independent reviewer, Professor Scott, considered 58 written submissions and undertook 82 individual interviews, including landholder visits. I take the opportunity to thank Professor Scott for his work on the review of the GasFields Commission.

I also understand that during the development of the bill, the government briefed key industry stakeholders and no concerns or issues were raised in relation to the proposed amendments. The commission was also extensively consulted throughout the preparation of the bill. There were 18 recommendations from the review on a range of matters. The government has supported or in principle supported the majority of the recommendations. This bill is an important step in delivering a number of those recommendations. With that, I commend the bill to the House.