




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.54 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I note that this bill mostly relates to improvements with the administration of the Land Act and the Land Title Act. I also note that the committee recommended the bill be passed. However, I note the statement of reservation to the committee report. It is interesting to note the apparent lack of consultation on the changes proposed by the bill. It is disappointing that the peak industry group AgForce had to proactively seek out the government to find out what changes were proposed. That group has a vested interest in any upset of the significant changes made by the shadow minister when he was a minister in relation to rolling term leases, which are vitally important to the state's pastoralists. Any changes affecting the extensions or the eligibility would have implications for their operations and of course their viability. I thank the LNP committee members who put in the work in relation to the bill inquiry. It was obviously needed, given the lack of information that, at least at the very beginning, was flowing from the minister's department.

One section of the bill serves to clarify the provisions of rolling term leases. As the shadow minister pointed out, we were all justifiably very concerned—not only us but also all of the pastoralists who would have been affected by this—that the Labor Party was again attempting to target landholders and that it may have been proposing changes to the rolling term lease provisions introduced by the LNP government in May 2014—landmark amendments and changes that needed to be made.

As I said in May 2014, the strategies we implemented were the most substantial land reform measures in a generation—reforms that improved lease security for landholders. For years this issue was completely ignored by Labor governments. The reforms delivered by the LNP government for landholders across this great state were very much overdue.

Land tenure security will always be one of the most important issues facing farmers and graziers across Queensland. Approximately 60 per cent of Queensland is state government leasehold estate. This equates to approximately 6,500 term and perpetual leases used for agriculture, grazing or pastoral purposes. It also includes around 60 offshore island tourism leases.

In my electorate of Nanango, security of land tenure is and always will be a key issue. The reforms made by the LNP in government allow those people to sleep easier at night. Many of the primary producers in my electorate have chosen to lease state land for grazing purposes, using this land as agistment blocks during dry times, as prime fattening country or as a way to grow their cattle herd numbers. Lease blocks are a part of our primary producers' business plans, and many use this leasehold land as a good way to grow their businesses without making major freehold property purchases.

When a primary producer is unsure of their land tenure security, naturally they are less likely to invest in property and it can be extremely difficult to plan for the future. Under the LNP's important changes, certain rural leases now enjoy 60 years of rolling tenure, allowing property managers to make long-term investment decisions and providing them greater negotiating power when negotiating with, most importantly, their banks.

Just last night in this House we talked about the need for good working relationships between banks and property owners whilst they are running their businesses. This is just another way that enables those landholders to be able to negotiate in good faith knowing that they have security of tenure over their land. The reforms introduced a simpler renewal process, effectively reducing assessment times from years to a matter of weeks. The change in just that alone has had a resounding effect for many business owners who own this land. Imagine going from taking years and years—and that is what it was taking under a Labor government—to just weeks under those changes. I again thank the member for Hinchinbrook for those landmark reforms. It is such a great way forward for the landholders of Queensland to know that they have that security of tenure.

In 2014 AgForce noted that the reforms were ‘an excellent step in the right direction of delivering tenure security and will offer a cheap and simplified renewal process for rural leaseholders’. It is this type of reform that the LNP government was doing throughout our term in office. It was this type of reform keeping people on the land. It was this type of reform that proved that only the LNP stands up for the agricultural industry in Queensland. It is only the LNP that stands up and protects the property rights of landholders across Queensland. It is only the LNP that brings in these types of reforms that enable the agricultural industry to grow and to benefit if we look at our terms of trade and the trade figures from the last quarter and last year because of the groundwork that was set up by the LNP government. These types of reforms help create positive feelings in an industry which was largely ignored by Labor, and it has also of course been hit by floods and more recently drought. We know that these reforms have allowed our graziers and our farmers to get on with the job of putting food on our tables rather than sitting in their offices and filling out paperwork.

In the short time I have remaining I want to touch on the other great land tenure reform that we introduced when we were in government, and that was enabling Indigenous—

**Mr POWER:** I rise to a point of order. In all this time we have yet to have any relevance to the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This has all been about the 2014 bill. Can it be relevant to the bill?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That just goes to show how out of touch this Labor government is.

**Mr POWER:** No, it goes to show that you do not know the standing orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you. There has been a point of order. There is no point of order. Please continue, member for Nanango.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** This goes to show how out of touch this incompetent Labor government is. It has no clue that the legislation before this House is about rolling term leases. How embarrassing for this incompetent Labor government to not even have a clue what its legislation is about! This legislation is about rolling term leases. The legislation is about giving landholders security of tenure. How embarrassing for this incompetent Labor government, which flatly refused to support the agricultural industry in Queensland.

**Mr Seeneey:** The member for Logan is an embarrassment every day.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection from the honourable member for Callide: the member for Logan is an embarrassment.

In the short time that I have left in relation to this bill and Indigenous communities, the effect of the LNP’s legislation was to enable those Indigenous communities like Cherbourg to be able to freehold. I call on the Labor government—just like the shadow minister did—to hurry up and effect these reforms. Two years later and still this incompetent Labor government has done absolutely nothing to enable the good people of Cherbourg to be able to freehold their land. The question remains: what is this government doing? All it is doing is reviewing. That is simply not doing anything. As the shadow minister said, the people in our Indigenous communities were rejoicing when the LNP put those reforms in place and I would ask the minister to explain what the hold-up is in terms of those reforms enabling them to freehold their land. Those opposite might think that is funny—

*(Time expired)*