



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2017

**MOTION**

**Military Training Areas**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the agriculture minister and the member for Rockhampton. I have watched and listened to the state Labor members with some amazement as they lined up one after another to cry crocodile tears for the landholders at Shoalwater Bay. I could not help but wonder where this concern was for the landholders of the Marlborough and Charters Towers areas when the vegetation management debate was happening in this House. I did not notice the Premier or the now agriculture minister exhibiting the same level of concern for the agriculture sector.

When the Palaszczuk government passed legislation to kick graziers out of national park grazing leases I did not detect the same level of concern. When the federal Labor government shut down the live-export trade overnight and plunged the cattle industry in the north into crisis, the then Labor government was silent, as has been this government. This government has never publicly slammed that reckless action—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Condamine. Minister for Industrial Relations, if you persist you will be warned and you will join the list.

**Mr WEIR:** This government was left wanting on every one of those issues. Indeed, it was the architect of some of the legislation I have mentioned that represented a direct attack on the landholders of this state. One would like to think that the conga line of Labor members, from the Premier down, who rushed to the scene were there as they had had a sudden revelation as to the importance and value of agriculture to the region and the state as a whole. The true story, we all know, is vastly different. The Labor members in nearby seats are feeling the hot winds of discontent with their performance and are nervously watching the polls slide, so they have rushed to seize on this emotive issue.

I watched this frenzy of activity from the seat of Condamine with some amazement and could not help but reflect on the hypocrisy of this Labor government. There is a town in the electorate of Condamine called Oakey. I presume that members opposite have heard of it. This town has been battling with the defence department over a water contamination issue for two years, with no help from those opposite. All members in this House have heard me speak of this matter in this place. I have asked all ministers across whose portfolio this issue has an impact questions both with and without notice. On all occasions those responses have been less than adequate. This includes the Minister for Agriculture, who has moved this motion tonight. Members might be interested to know how many ministers or state Labor members present here tonight have rushed out to meet with the local Oakey community, as happened in Marlborough and Charters Towers.

**Opposition members:** How many?

**Mr WEIR:** None—not one. I can include the Premier. The Premier has never come out to speak to the people of Oakey.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Condamine.

**Mr WEIR:** The health minister has never come out to speak to the people of Oakey. The agriculture minister has never come out to speak to the people of Oakey. The previous agriculture minister also did not. The racing minister—there is a large training centre in Oakey—has not been there.

**Mr Byrne** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister for Agriculture, you are warned under standing order 253A.

**Mr WEIR:** The environment minister has never come out to meet with the people of Oakey.

The member for Rockhampton talked about rallies. There have been many rallies in Oakey, but no-one has seen fit to come out and talk to those people. Maybe it is because there are no marginal seats in the area. The member also talked about a lack of credibility. I can say that there is no credibility on that side of the House when it comes to showing concern for the people of Oakey.

I know what it is like to try to deal with the Defence Force. The process in Shoalwater Bay was absolutely terrible. That is not surprising, going by my experience with the defence department. It was Tim Nicholls who went and spoke to the Prime Minister and had that decision overturned. It is a great result for the people of Shoalwater Bay, but what about the people of Oakey? Will members opposite show any interest in those people? Housing prices have been impacted. There are health concerns. There are mental health concerns. A large abattoir wants to employ another 400 or 500 workers. None of those people will live in Oakey until this has been lifted. Some support from members opposite would be much appreciated. They have been conspicuous in their absence.

**Dr Miles:** It is the Turnbull government.

**Mr WEIR:** You are the environment minister. You have a part to play in this. It goes across your portfolio and that of the Minister for Health.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Environment, if you have something to say, get on the speaking list.

**Mr WEIR:** I totally oppose this motion. I think it is hypocritical. I think those opposite are condemned by their own hypocrisy on the situation in Oakey. I oppose the motion.