




Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**

**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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### **STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE COMMUNITIES BILL**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.51 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Bill 2016. As has been stated by many members on this side of the House, the LNP does not support a 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforce. My sister and my brother-in-law spent many years in Blackwater in the eighties and early nineties. Darryl spent 15 years working in the mines there. Blackwater was a thriving town at that stage, as were the towns of Dysart and Moranbah. There was a high school in Blackwater where Emma and Darryl's three girls went to school. The eldest began her working life in the town of Blackwater.

**Mr Costigan:** Used to be three footy clubs there.

**Mr WEIR:** That is exactly right. There was a golf course. It was a thriving town. There was a Woolworths. There was a big shopping centre. Now there are a lot of empty houses. It is nowhere near the town that it was. The 100 per cent fly-in fly-out mines in Queensland came in under the Bligh era. It has devastated those communities. It is definitely not in the community's interest.

Since the redistribution, the seat of Condamine includes a mine, the New Hope mine at Acland. One only has to look at that mine to see how the town and the communities around that mine depend upon that mine, whether they are contractors, car dealerships in the town of Oakey, kids at school or farmers. There are a lot of small farms around that area. They are not large enough to survive on their own and a lot of small block owners work at the mine. That is why it is such an emotive issue in Oakey. That town has become so reliant on that mine. The thought of it closing is something that a lot of people are struggling to come to grips with. It has been through the Land Court process. It is now going through a judicial review. New Hope has challenged the decision. We are awaiting the outcome. The residents are well aware that the minister could overturn it and make the decision himself. I think everybody out there is hoping that is not the case. We will wait for it to go through due process. If it does not proceed it will have a big impact on the town of Oakey.

One of the amendments that was mooted by the member for Nanango is the social impact assessment. That is vitally important. In the Bligh era when the gas industry first started out in the Dalby, Chinchilla, Miles area it came at those areas at 100 miles per hour and they were not prepared for it. We had workers camps spring up all around the area and then they started building houses in Chinchilla, Miles and Dalby. Motels were built. Everyone thought this period of boom was here for a number of years to come. That was not the case. When it went through the construction stage there were businesses that went broke. Motels sold up. It caused a lot of pain and grief. A bit of forward planning would have made a big difference and made those communities much more sustainable than they currently are. They are working their way out of it, but it has taken a toll on all of those communities. A social impact assessment and consultation with the local community is vitally important.

In relation to Central Queensland and Adani, with the youth unemployment in those areas one would hope that they do employ as many people locally as possible because that means apprenticeships, traineeships and a future beyond mining. I support the amendments foreshadowed by the member for Nanango and reiterate that we do not support a 100 per cent fly-in fly-out workforce.