




Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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**LAND, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.14 pm): It is curious that there was an attack there on the members of the committee and the consultation they undertook. The member is attacking Mr David Batt, the member for Bundaberg; Mr Brent Mickelberg, the member for Buderim; and the deputy chair, the member for Condamine, by saying that they failed in their duty to consult. We heard that they got on so well and worked so well together. I also note that this committee and the previous committee travelled to Cairns to do consultation on this legislation. I wonder who the member for Warrego did her consultation with? Was it Jake Smith who advised her with regard to the consultation of the committee?

It is disappointing that we cannot have a reasonable conversation without those opposite trotting out the same failed lines about a lack of consultation. We can see in relation to this omnibus bill that there was extensive consultation. The bill was also introduced into the last parliament. I believe the process of consultation started then.

This bill amends the Aboriginal Land Act, the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act and the Explosives Act. These acts are very much acts that affect regional areas, the north of our state particularly. That leads me to another issue they raised. Those opposite said that there is very little representation and consultation with members of the LNP in the north. I have a quote here which reads—

It is dead set embarrassing in this House that I am just one of two LNP members north of Bundaberg. Let us not beat around the bush. We—

meaning the LNP—

only have ourselves to blame.

We see a lack of consultation from the LNP. They only have themselves to blame in failing to consult in North Queensland. That is why they do not get representation in those areas.

**Mr Watts:** When you filibuster try to be relevant—just a little bit.

**Mr POWER:** It is absolutely relevant. I note the member for Toowoomba North questions relevance. We know that he came into this House to speak in a consideration in detail debate but he was so uncertain of what he was speaking about he spoke to the wrong clause. He gave us an entire three-minute speech when he was uncertain which clause he was speaking to.

**Mr Watts:** Not true at all.

**Mr POWER:** He says it is not true. It was possibly not true because his speech was so bad and misdirected that we did not know that he was trying to address the clauses.

**Ms Boyd:** He's still confused.

**Mr POWER:** He is still confused to this day. He does not know which clause we were talking about.

I go back to the amendments to the Explosives Act. We saw the power of explosions with the Angellala Creek bridge truck explosion which devastated a low-lying bridge. It also devastated the nearby rail line. I note that both of those have been repaired. I see the Minister for Main Roads in the House. He was vitally involved in the actions to repair that bridge promptly for the people in that area. Next time rains come to that area people will have a better bridge to travel across. When we were discussing this legislation the member for Cairns talked about the enormous explosion in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1917. This underpins how dangerous it is to transport large amounts of explosives—or even small amounts—without serious regulations and plans.

This bill achieves the policy objectives by amending the explosives legislation to: improve community safety and security by strengthening security provisions for explosives; improve the transport of explosives to save time and money for the industry and to improve safety and security on public roads; and streamline administration including processes around application for, and transfer of, explosives licences. It is important that we sell this. It is important that we go out to Queenslanders and communicate exactly what these provisions mean so that they can understand them and it is clear for everyone.

We know that this is not a strength of the LNP. I quote from a recent commentary, 'I famously declared: "We could not sell ice to an Afghani camel driver."' Forgetting the colourful language, this is exactly why we need a Labor government. We go through the correct procedures and processes to inform people. We know that the LNP under their current leadership cannot communicate what this bill is about.

Further, we need to improve the consistency of safety regulator provisions to improve information provided to the Explosives Inspectorate around notification and the investigation of explosives incidents. I think that it is vital if there is an incident that we get the full information and that we have consistent safety regulator provisions to improve that.

I express my thanks to this committee but also to my own committee. We have had a very productive year. I think we in committees have been focused on Queenslanders and the needs they have. We have been focused on legislation—I understand that there has been record legislation—and we have been listening to Queenslanders through that process.

**Mr Mickelberg:** On the *Notice Paper* maybe.

**Mr POWER:** We have seen how shy Brent is. The chair of the committee has tried to bring him out of his shell and get him to express himself. I wish them both a very merry Christmas and hope that they enjoy themselves over the holidays.