




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 17 October 2018

TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.47 pm): I rise here today to make a very short contribution to the Termination of Pregnancy Bill. Many times in this chamber I have voted for change to laws in the best interests of the individual. I have always believed in the right of the individual and the responsibilities of one's actions. Whilst life may develop unexpectedly and not proceed the way we would have hoped or expected, it is our values and our beliefs that define us.

Many of my community in the electorate of Theodore have contacted me personally through phone, email and letters. There have been a vast, vast number. Whilst I have a personal view on this matter, I must respect the wishes of residents who have taken the time to contact me, and I thank those residents for doing so. While some communications can only be classed as extreme and detrimental to the argument they are putting forward, it is an issue beyond politics and goes to our innermost beliefs. As a nation, as a state, we have come far in modernising our laws. As I have stated, I have supported change in conscience votes previously in this chamber.

I have listened to many of the contributions over the last few days, but one contribution affected me greatly and that was the contribution of the member for Hervey Bay. He is an example of an individual who could pay the ultimate price in this debate. The vast majority of my local residents who have contacted me have expressed their concerns about this bill. Whilst I may have a deep-seated belief in the individual's right, there is also the right of the unborn healthy child. Therefore, I respect and understand the wishes of the vast majority of the residents in the electorate of Theodore who have contacted my office and me.