




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This is a large omnibus bill that sprawls across some 234 pages and covers a diverse suite of legislation—some 29 acts of law. I think that that is probably about half of the minister's portfolio responsibilities. I went through and had a look at it. We now have another nine pages of amendments with another four acts being amended.

It is very difficult for stakeholders to work their way through this legislation and understand exactly what it does and then work out what their legitimate concerns are that they wish to raise. That was a significant issue that was raised by submitters—the broad and complex nature of the bill. Stakeholders were concerned about the time frame that they had to consider the bill. There was something like only 15 business days for consideration. When you are amending roughly half of the legislation that you are responsible for, if it is only worth about 15 business days of consideration, perhaps that shows where things sit in the hierarchy here. So here again we have another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government ramming laws through without proper scrutiny and without proper regard to the impost on stakeholders.

When we are amending legislation such as this, we need to look very closely at what the outcomes of the amendments will be. It is hard for stakeholders to drill down when there are so many different pieces of legislation being amended and to try to match up the amendments with the different acts—more than 29 different acts are amended. We in the LNP do have serious concerns that the stakeholders have not had suitable time to analyse the bill. They have not had a lot of time—and we only saw the other amendments this morning—to assess the impacts of the amendments to more than 29 separate acts.

I refer to the contribution of the shadow minister for natural resources, who outlined that the LNP will oppose some parts of the bill, particularly scrapping the foreign landownership report. Clauses 36 and 37 remove the requirement for the state government to produce its annual report on foreign ownership of land and to table that report in this House. The LNP will oppose the changes to part 4 of the bill—that is, clauses 36 and 37—that removes section 16 of the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988.

What a lazy Labor government we have. They could not even be bothered putting together a five-page report once a year about the foreign ownership of land in Queensland and tabling it in this House. It is not exactly an onerous document. It is only five pages. I actually have last year's report here and I have looked at previous years. I think I have looked at them every year they have been tabled. They are a short document but they are very comprehensive.

The Labor government are so lazy and arrogant. They do not want to continue with this report that has been in place for something like 30 years. They would much rather abolish the annual report than continue to report to parliament and allow this parliament and the public the opportunity to scrutinise and track the changes that are happening with the foreign ownership of land. They are taking away a really key source of data and transparency.