




Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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**NATURE CONSERVATION (SPECIAL WILDLIFE RESERVES) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I oppose this bill. It is just another Labor attempt to further vilify farmers and graziers throughout rural Queensland as environmental vandals. It is just the same as the native vegetation legislation that was passed purely to prop up the Treasurer's seat against the militant Greens. This bill is a ruthless and unjustified attack on property and the rights of Queensland farmers and graziers. The fact is that neighbouring graziers may not even be consulted in regard to a nature conservation proposal. It is outrageous. This is another blow to rural business who quite obviously will be affected.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation has raised concerns regarding restrictions arising from a special wildlife reserve. The management of SWRs will have a flow-on effect to the management of adjacent productive agricultural land. It is therefore essential that restrictive management practices imposed on SWRs do not negatively impact on productive grazing and agricultural land and the overall management of those grazing and farming systems.

How can the management of feral pests and noxious weeds be guaranteed under this bill? The government and its departments cannot control and manage the problem it already has now on Crown lands and national parks, and of course the majority of the voting public are not aware of how big this problem is, as they rarely see it. There is also no drought or starving stock on a seweraged suburban block. In this bill it is clear that Labor has purposely left 'materially affected' to be as ambiguous as possible to take away any right of dispute in the courts, further alienating rural Queensland.

The National Parks Association of Queensland and the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland have raised grave concerns with respect to the opportunity for rorting this legislation. The National Parks Association of Queensland said that the bill currently includes no provision for management programs as special wildlife reserves to be reviewed or accessed by the public. Public scrutiny is necessary to ensure the areas meet their obligations under the legislation. This brings into question the transparency and accountability that may be minimised and/or removed by the Greens-pandering Labor government.

For the Minister for Agriculture to stand in this House and pontificate about how the Labor government is being a friend of the farmer and the grazier is an absurdity and a mistruth. This is another bill that panders to the environmental left so the Labor Party can stay in power. I most definitely do not support this bill.