




Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2019

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.35 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Transport and Public Works Committee's report No. 23, *Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry*, tabled on 24 May 2019. The report is extensive and in-depth. The committee made six recommendations for the minister's attention. These recommendations are wide ranging and quite broad and leave considerable room for the minister and the Labor government to bow to union requests for greater restrictions on international workers and foreign flagged ships operating in Queensland waters.

Queensland needs an effective and sustainable intrastate shipping industry that is competitive. In particular, this has possible ramifications on Rio Tinto and its bauxite operations at Weipa in North Queensland and how the bauxite ore is shipped to the alumina smelter at Gladstone. Any significant changes to these operations may affect employment opportunities at these facilities. In that regard, I think we need to be cautious.

The coastal shipping industry is critical to regional economic development, particularly in North Queensland—places like Weipa and Thursday Island. The introduction of any additional protection measures has the potential to impede productivity. This should once again be noted.

The committee travelled extensively up and down the Queensland coast, visiting the ports of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone, where we heard many submissions from stakeholders. I am at a loss to understand why the committee's travel arrangements did not include places like Weipa and Thursday Island due to budget constraints. Shipping to these isolated places is most important, and I feel that it would have been most beneficial for the committee to see shipping operations in these places; however, that was not to be.

I acknowledge my fellow committee members and thank them for their input. I also thank Deb Jeffrey and her staff on the committee secretariat. I thank them for preparing the committee report and for their help and guidance.

Yesterday afternoon I made reference to a CPA sanctioned trip to London taken by the honourable member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard. I apologise to the honourable member for any offence taken.