




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.30 pm): The LNP will be opposing this bill. The Palaszczuk Labor government can spin this all it wants, but it is simply pushing regional Queensland to the brink. When I became the leader of the LNP I said that I wanted to bridge the divide between the south-east corner and the rest of Queensland. There is no greater example of division between regional Queensland and the south-east in this term than the legislation before us.

The Palaszczuk government's hardline policy agenda is providing no environmental outcomes—none at all. We all know that agriculture is the backbone of the Queensland economy. It is no more so than in regional Queensland. Who does that benefit? That benefits everyone in Queensland. It does not matter whether you live in Caloundra, whether you live in Southern Downs, whether you live in Inala or whether you live in Carindale, we all need agriculture. Unfortunately, under the Palaszczuk government managing our land is becoming almost impossible.

In relation to the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House today, let us look at what Bill Potts of the Queensland Law Society said about the bill. I know the Palaszczuk Labor government does not want to believe the LNP, it does not want to believe people in regional Queensland, it does not want to believe the people who feed the people of this great state, but it should believe the president of the Queensland Law Society. What did he say during the committee process? Bill Potts said, 'This is not good law.' If there is a time for the Palaszczuk government to sit up and listen to the Queensland Law Society, it is now. It is not good law.

We know that this law is not good for regional Queensland and not good for the environment. This government is incapable of creating and implementing effective environmental initiatives because it is simply obsessed with media attention and media headlines and grabs. The fact that neighbouring graziers might not be considered as materially affected parties is simply out of touch. It is beyond out of touch.

This bill does not even create a clear framework for ecotourism. This bill could result in the permanent loss of viable, valuable farming land. Let us think about that. I listened to the shadow minister's contribution to this bill. Viable, productive farming land could be lost in perpetuity. For those opposite who have no clue about what in perpetuity means, I point out that in perpetuity means forever. It does not matter when land changes—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the arrogant contributions from those opposite.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member for Logan, if you are going to interject please return to your seat. Otherwise leave the parliament.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: There we have a full display of the arrogance of the Palaszczuk government. They have no comprehension of the effect that this bill will have on the lives of Queenslanders.

Even beekeeping would be considered incompatible with SWR management practices. It is wonderful that the minister for agriculture is in the chamber. Mr Deputy Speaker, you know, as a member from the Gold Coast and as someone who has been raised there, that we need to do everything we possibly can to support the beekeeping industry. We need the beekeeping industry so we can ensure the future of agriculture and the environment of this state. That is why we need beekeeping.

Ms Grace: On the Gold Coast?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: A minister who is so out of touch and does not understand that there is in the—

Ms Grace: Bees in other parts of Queensland, yes, I understand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, please refrain from further comment across the House.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In the hinterland of the Gold Coast we have mushroom farmers, chicken farmers, herb farmers and flower farmers and that is why we need bees for the Gold Coast.

We know that the Law Society has called this bad law. We know that an inner-city Brisbane minister would have no clue about the agricultural industry and its effect on the Gold Coast. The Property Council has highlighted the inadequacy in terms of how the minister is to notify parties. It is to be done through newspapers rather than by directly contacting people. It is a disgrace that the Labor Party in Queensland think it is acceptable to notify affected Queenslanders through newspapers and not by direct contact.

Imagine if those provisions applied in the inner-city seats of McConnel or South Brisbane. It would never be proposed. The Palaszczuk government and this minister think it is okay to treat the people of regional Queensland this way—that is, advise them through newspapers and not direct contact. How arrogant, how out of touch and how unacceptable is that?

We know that this is bad law. We have heard that from the Law Society. We have heard the submissions during the committee process. That is why the LNP cannot support this law. We know that the intent of this bill is not to help the environment. The intent of this bill is not to make it easier for agricultural producers to support the economy of Queensland.

We also know that everything the Palaszczuk government does is for its own self-interest. That box has been ticked clearly by this bill before the House today. The Palaszczuk government needs to stop moving the goalpost for business in Queensland. There is one thing this government constantly gets wrong. It fails to understand that an agricultural business is exactly that—it is a business that employs people and helps this economy tick.

That is why agriculture is so important to the economy of Queensland. That is why agriculturalists are the best environmentalist out there. People who own the land and farm the land make sure they do everything possible for the next generation. They understand and know that bad law will only inhibit their future, their children's future and their grandchildren's future.

That is why we can no longer afford to have this out-of-touch, arrogant Palaszczuk government ramming bad laws—terrible laws—down the throat of the people of Queensland. This is bad law for regional Queensland and, make no mistake, this is bad law for Queensland.