




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 October 2019

### **SUMMARY OFFENCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.41 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The LNP believes everybody has the right to protest but nobody has the right to disrupt the lives of Queenslanders. Recent protest action has brought this city to a standstill, disrupted lawful work in the resources industry and violated small farming businesses. The impact of this extreme form of protesting must not be understated. Shutting down mines and ports makes Queensland a less attractive place to invest, which simply means fewer jobs for Queenslanders. Blocking major roads prevents Queenslanders from getting to work, taking their kids to school or getting to hospital. Raiding farming businesses hurts the vital agricultural industry of this great state. Destroying job opportunities, causing chaos across our cities and breaking the law must not be tolerated.

The LNP does not oppose the bill put forward by those opposite, but we believe it simply does not go far enough and it will not have the impact Queenslanders have been led to expect. The Premier held a press conference earlier this month where she announced 'Enough is enough'. Her talk was tough—the Premier said she wanted protesters sent to prison. Queenslanders were therefore led to believe that these new laws would be fast-tracked and protesters who threw the city into chaos would be stopped in their tracks, but there was no substance to the Premier's hollow words. Once again, the Palaszczuk Labor government is all talk and no action.

The laws put forward by those opposite simply are not sufficient to crack down on protesters who seek to disrupt the lives of Queenslanders. Queenslanders have spoken very loud and clear and they have had enough of these selfish protesters. They have had enough of the weakest Premier we have ever seen in Queensland. We know that the Premier has allowed these protests to go on and on. They have caused so much frustration on the streets for people getting into the city, and we know it will continue because the bill that has been put forward by those opposite will only catch protesters who actually use the lock-on devices and that is the important point here.

The past few months have shown these protesters do not need the lock-on devices to bring the city to a standstill. The proposed laws do not prevent mass disruption to the public, and they do not target protesters blocking traffic or people hanging from bridges—unless of course they bring with them one of those lock-on devices. That is why the LNP's amendments to the bill must be supported in this House. I thank the shadow minister, the member for Toowoomba North, for the sensible amendments that he has worked through and brought into this House. Those amendments, added to the legislation that is here before the House, will help protect jobs and protect the rights of all Queenslanders to go about their lives.

The amendments that have been foreshadowed deliver tough consequences, with mandatory jail time for repeat offenders and stricter bail laws. That is how the LNP is tough on crime. We are sincerely hopeful that the government will listen to and read those amendments. We hope that the government will take serious this belief that we need to protect the livelihoods of Queenslanders and the people who want to get jobs and get to work. Hopefully, they will support the LNP's very sensible and tough amendments.

Of course the use of dangerous devices that could cause injury to our emergency services workers must be stopped. I do not think there would be anyone in this House who would disagree with that, but those on this side of the House also believe that our police should be out there protecting the community, not babysitting selfish protesters. There has already been a massive waste of police resources and daily disruptions on the streets, particularly here in Brisbane's CBD recently. Simply banning the devices described in the bill is not going to deter the protesters. If the protesters are prepared to break the law, they should be prepared to face the consequences. There must be tough consequences for anyone who breaks the laws, particularly those who do it time and time again. We know it is only the LNP that is committed to protecting jobs and stopping the mass disruption caused by these activists.