




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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LAND, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill covers a wide range of amendments that will streamline and ensure the effectiveness of certain key regulatory frameworks within what is now the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio. The government remains committed to increasing the ability of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to access and utilise their land as well as enhancing opportunities to achieve home ownership.

The bill proposes amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 to expand the circumstances in which registered native title bodies corporate may hold land subject to a number of safeguards. This will provide flexibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owner groups to nominate an existing registered native title body corporate to be the grantee of land which is not subject to a native title determination provided the land is adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, a relevant native title determination area and the traditional owner groups are the same or similar. This flexibility removes the need to establish and fund a new entity with the same or similar membership and administrative and governance arrangements if an otherwise suitable entity already exists.

Further amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 will provide greater options for the government and trustees to determine or agree on sale prices for social housing. The purchase of social housing stock is the most feasible path to home ownership in Indigenous communities. These amendments allow the state and trustees to respond more readily to the unique circumstances in these discrete communities, recognise existing interests in property and make adjustments in communities where there is limited or no housing market. The bill will also make amendments to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 to support the protection and cooperative management of cultural and natural values on the Cape York Peninsula.

The bill amends the Land Act 1994 to provide a modern compliance framework. Currently, the Land Act provides only limited tools to allow the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to appropriately manage state land, particularly unallocated state land and reserves that have no trustees. Of particular note is the lack of contemporary powers required to address issues such as the illegal dumping of rubbish, noise, erosion caused by motorbike riders and four-wheel drives, and illegal camping—something that many of us would be familiar with in our electorates. There is also an inability to rapidly deal with dangerous infrastructure that poses a risk to public safety or address the burden to the state and taxpayers of unsafe and inappropriate buildings and structures, which again is something that myself and the member for Capalaba are familiar with.

A range of compliance tools similar to existing provisions in equivalent state legislation are proposed, providing the government with the flexibility to respond more appropriately, effectively and in a timely manner to different compliance situations. Amendments to the authorised officer provisions in the Land Act are proposed to provide protection to government officers as well as modern safeguards to the community.

The bill also proposes minor amendments to the Land Act to streamline processes for tourism lease renewals on regulated islands. The amendments will allow marine term leases to become rolling term leases where they are tied by covenant to a perpetual lease and provide supporting infrastructure. This responds to stakeholder feedback and provides greater security to leaseholders of tourism leases, which support and strengthen the tourism sector.

Amendments to the Land Title Act 1994 encourage and facilitate the take-up of online e-conveyancing by removing the legal effect of these duplicate paper certificates of title. Additionally, the bill has been amended to change the date of commencement of amendments to the Land Title Act that remove the legal effect of duplicate paper certificates of title to 1 July 2019.

The bill proposes to amend the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 to make definitions for 'foreign person' and 'foreign corporation' consistent with those used in the Duties Act 2001, reducing duplication and red tape. Other amendments will generally update the act, including contemporary penalty provisions. The amendments to the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act will now commence by proclamation to ensure the amendments are not inadvertently retrospective. I commend the bill to the House.