




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.09 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Queensland government's Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. May I begin by acknowledging the work of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in its consideration of the bill. May I thank the committee members including my colleagues the members for Bancroft, Mount Ommaney and Ipswich West and of course the secretariat for their outstanding consideration and work on this bill.

The objectives of the bill are to: improve the administrative efficiency and to ensure regulatory frameworks within the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio remain effective and responsive; enhance the water compliance frameworks; and implement measures to improve performance of the resources tenure management system. In order to achieve these objectives, 29 acts will be amended. This seems to be a very big, scary number for those opposite, but they should rest assured that these are all very sensible amendments.

Specifically, the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 will be amended to reduce regulatory burdens and improve administrative efficiency. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013 will be amended to provide more efficient processes for the transition of leases. The requirement to create and table an annual report on foreign ownership under the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 will be removed. It is important to note, however, that this data will still be collected by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and, despite the misrepresentation by those opposite, the minister can request the creation of the report.

The Land Act 1994 will be amended to provide new mechanisms to facilitate dispute resolution between leaseholders and sublessees. As we heard earlier in the debate, this mechanism is a substantial step in the right direction to resolve disputes on state land including, for example, Tangalooma resort. The Land Act amendments will also ensure access to inaccessible state land where, after substantial good-faith negotiations, an agreement with the landholder cannot be reached. Despite the comments of those opposite, this provision has significant safeguards to ensure the landholder is not left worse off.

Amendments to the Surveyors Act 2003 and the Surveyors Regulation 2014 will be implemented to improve operation of the Surveyors Board of Queensland by clarifying administrative arrangements and disciplinary processes. Measures to continue to improve performance of the resource tenure management system will be instigated through amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. These amendments aim to provide certainty to landholders who will have exploration tenures over their property. In addition, it will ensure that companies that are holders of exploration tenures upgrade to production tenures where appropriate and within a reasonable period of time.

Amendments are put forward to the Water Act 2000 to improve operational efficiency, strengthen compliance and enforcement provisions, ensure consistency with local government infrastructure charging notices, facilitate balanced gender representation on category 2 water boards, modernise the

selection and appointment process for directors, and clarify the application of several provisions applying to category 1 and 2 water boards. These amendments are key planks in the Palaszczuk Labor government's objective to reach 50 per cent representation of women on government boards. At 48 per cent currently, it is a significant success.

As well, there are minor amendments to the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Electricity Act 1994 to ensure that the state's new government owned corporation electricity generator CleanCo is subject to the same regulatory framework as the existing government owned corporation electricity generators Stanwell Corporation Ltd and CS Energy. I look forward to CleanCo entering the market towards the end of this year as it will provide cost savings to my constituents in Lytton while driving down emissions, something about which my constituents will also be happy to hear. May I acknowledge the individuals and organisations who made submissions on the bill. I commend the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to the House.