




Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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### **LAND, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak in the debate on the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Workplace health and safety is everyone's business, and there are sections of this bill that will enhance the safety and security of workers and the community in the explosives and gas sectors. Just last Friday in Mackay the Resource Industry Network held their annual work safe forum which was attended by major and smaller workplaces in the mining industry. We meet together each year to say that we take safety seriously in our workplaces. Our communities collectively are determined that we will not have to send condolences to any more family members or friends or workplaces this year. Already we have had one and one is too many. The ripple effect on our communities is too tragic.

Explosives are used in the mining industry, and many in my community are connected in some way with mining. The explosives are transported through Mackay and the little townships on their way to the Bowen Basin. This bill amends the Explosives Act 1999. That act regulates the manufacture, sale, handling, storage, transportation and use of explosives in Queensland. The act, however, does not include provisions for security. We live in a world that is moving and evolving at a fast pace. It is important that our legislation dealing with explosives is modern and contemporary and meets the standards and expectations of the community and industry. The amendments in the bill legislate current practices regarding a person's obligation to secure explosives and to identify unsecured explosives as an incident which is reportable. They legislate for safety management systems to include security matters and ensure that all licence holders undertaking activities regarding security adopt security plans.

The Explosives Inspectorate within the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy regulates the handling of explosives and ensures that licence holders are appropriate and undertake suitable safe and secure handling practices. The bill amends the Explosives Act 1999 and the Explosives Regulations 2017 to align with the national harmonisation process and place Queensland at the forefront for influencing the process going forward. The bill will improve community safety by strengthening safety and security provisions for explosives. It is essential to keep explosives secure and ensure that only those persons who are appropriate have access to explosives. This bill amends the explosives legislation to reflect the Queensland government's *Not now, not ever* policy by prohibiting persons subject to domestic violence orders from holding an explosives licence. It is important that legislation is proactive and prevents the possibility of the misuse of explosives in any situation.

Explosives need to be transported. In Central Queensland this means they are travelling through the towns where we live with our families. They pass petrol stations, shops, schools and homes. The safe carriage of explosives is paramount for my community. This bill introduces provisions for authorisation and licensing of individuals transporting explosives materials and the requirement for journey plans and the notification and assessment about the transport route. The unfortunate and very sad incident at Angellala Creek is a learning experience for us all and an opportunity to mitigate further

risks by putting in place additional checks and balances for the transport and use of explosives. The bill introduces provisions for authorisation and licensing of individuals transporting explosives materials and the requirement for journey plans and the notification and assessment about the transport route.

It is the Palaszczuk government that has committed funding in partnership with the federal government to build the \$150 million Walkerston Bypass that will continue on the Mackay Ring Road. The bypass will take hundreds of transport trucks running through the township of Walkerston away from that community. The bypass will take the transportation of explosives out of the main street of this small town—away from their shops, their two schools, their churches and their petrol station.

Queensland will join with most of the other states in requiring a driver to hold a licence when transporting explosives. The explosives transport industry has been proactive in seeking the introduction of an explosives driver licence. The introduction of the licence will take away the disadvantage to Queensland drivers working across borders. There are very responsible operators in the commercial explosives industry and I would like to highlight one. The Dyno Nobel Moranbah branch puts an emphasis on mental health wellness and support. It is good to see companies looking after their workers. I commend the bill to the House.