




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—my final contribution from my time on the Transport and Resources Committee. I wish to thank my fellow committee members. I have really enjoyed my time on the committee. I thank all of the ministers and the current committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah, for his stewardship of the committee and the member for Bancroft for his time on the committee. I have served my entire parliamentary time on this particular committee and I have really enjoyed it. I also want to thank the secretariat for the work they have put in. In the last term we had the wonderful Jacqui Dewar. She did an outstanding job. A lot of work over a long period has gone into the issues contained within this bill. I feel now is a good time to put that on the record and to say thank you very much. I have really appreciated my time on the committee and I am happy to hand over to the member for Stretton.

I thank the many witnesses who appeared before the committee on this bill. The committee has recommended that this bill be passed. As we heard from the member for Condamine, this bill does have bipartisan support. Picking up from where my learned colleague, the member for Ipswich West, left off, Queensland is in the middle of a renewables boom. It is very exciting. However, there could be an issue if those 847 mining minerals leases were challenged. Some of these leases cover copper and other minerals that we need for this renewables boom. It is really important for the renewables boom that these leases stay intact and that the businesses that have these leases continue to have those validly granted leases.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms PUGH: That is exactly right. In this particular case the retrospective nature of the bill, rather than changing the conditions in which the leaseholders have been operating, will instead act to ensure that the leases which were believed to be properly granted and held are, in fact, considered to be properly held. The identified administrative deficiency related to mining leases may potentially mean that they are invalid if legally challenged despite being otherwise validly approved at the time.

The department has identified 86 coalmining leases and 847 mineral mining leases that were issued without either a recommendation to the Governor in Council or the actual issuing of an instrument. The amendments will operate retrospectively, but it is important to note that they will not confer any additional rights or obligations upon those stakeholders. This House always carefully considers the idea of passing retrospective legislation. It is not normally considered ideal as it often imposes conditions on stakeholders that did not exist at the time they undertook the specific behaviour. In this case the opposite is true. Unless the legislation is retrospective, leases that were thought to be properly held at the time may, in fact, not be.

Moving on to the non-resources aspects of the bill, once again I thank the many submitters and witnesses who gave their very clear feedback. The issue of a personalised transport ombudsman was very dear to the heart of the member for Kurwongbah, who saw that entire process through right from the start in his last term. It was something he was incredibly passionate about. I know that he is really happy with where that outcome has landed. I think it is fantastic that that feedback has been taken on board. I note the bipartisan support from the member for Chatsworth. It is always good to see. I think this is really good legislation and I commend it to the House.