




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is interesting when the Greens and the Labor Party have a little squabble across the chamber—a little lovers tiff, you could say—because the vast majority on the other side certainly do rely on Greens preferences to survive in this place. No matter how often they say that they do not, they do.

Mr Nicholls: They always go back to them.

Mr BOOTHMAN: They always go back to them. Around election time they always kiss and make up and they are all best friends again. This bill is an omnibus bill which amends five separate acts across three portfolios—resources, transport and water—fixing multiple issues. Over the years I have seen plenty of these types of bills come through the House which fix mistakes that should never have been made in the first place. I am sure that every member here, apart from certain individuals, believe that the mining industry should be a strong and powerful industry in this state because it creates so much employment.

The other day I was talking to Terry, who stopped at one of my roadsides. We were having a bit of a chat about his job in the mining industry. He was very concerned about the recent attendance at a mine in his region—I believe it was Collinsville—where the federal opposition leader turned up and there was no media. It was like it was a very secret meeting and they did not want to upset the Greens because we have a federal election coming up. As Terry said, it is very appropriate for Anthony Albanese to be called 'Each-Way Albo': when he is in Melbourne in Victoria he says one thing, yet when he comes to Queensland he says something completely different.

This legislation shows the importance of mining in this state. Fixing minor issues relating to the administrative deficiencies of about 900 mines is certainly welcomed because, as I said, the industry is very important. People like Terry and the many others in my electorate need certainty. He is a fly-in fly-out worker while his family lives on the Gold Coast and he needs certainty going forward.

I turn now to rideshare and the Personalised Transport Ombudsman. On the weekend John Crane, who is an Uber driver, stopped to have a chat to me about the current situation facing Uber drivers. Given that the Gold Coast is the tourism capital of Australia, it is certainly a worrying time for them. I refer to page 25 of the committee report which highlights the significant impact this has had on the industry and how bookings have declined during this time. He would be horrified if he knew that half a million dollars was wasted on the Personalised Transport Ombudsman—a completely toothless tiger. He would be absolutely shocked, as would Raj, a taxidriver who also stopped on Sunday for a chat. That half a million dollars would have been better served as compensation for the industry.

Jo Hubner, a taxi owner and a good CWA lady, and her company have been struggling ever since the deregulation of the taxi industry. They bought their taxi licence for a small fortune and these days that taxi licence is, as she said, almost worthless and is not worth the paper it is printed on. As she said, her family is struggling. That half a million dollars would have gone some way to help this

struggling industry. They are asking for the government to be a lot more prudent with the ways it is spending money. This is taxpayers' money. This is money coming through vehicle registration and payroll tax. That money could have been spent more wisely to help and assist those individuals, especially during the time of COVID.