




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.45 pm): I rise to contribute to the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022. Firstly, I would like to thank the State Development and Regional Industries Committee for approving my substitution into the committee for their visit to western Queensland. We went to the Roma saleyards and Western Meat Exports in Charleville and had meetings with the Balonne and Maranoa councils. Two of my parliamentary colleagues were there with me—the member for Ipswich West and the member for Lockyer—and we were joined by the member for Warrego in Roma, where we held an incredible meeting with quite a large group of local producers, AgForce representatives and local council representatives. They were real people with real concerns around this bill. I really do want to thank the committee for enabling me to do that. I note that the other two government members were not able to attend. That was disappointing. It would have been wonderful for more people to get into the Roma saleyards to see what an incredible and amazing facility it is.

I also want to give a big shout-out and thanks to the member for Gympie, who is someone who actually understands and will live with the impacts of this bill. I do not say that lightly. We all know here that the member for Gympie is a primary producer—a cattle baron, we like to call him in my part of the world. This bill is important for primary producers across Queensland because it amends various sections of several acts. However, the contribution that I want to concentrate on today is principally around the banning of SAP. I know that members are referring to it as CSSP poison, but for the continuance of my speech I will refer to it as SAP because that is what primary producers refer to it as. We know that this poison is a poison for pest and feral animals—

**Mr Stevens:** It works.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach; it does work, but it works mainly on feral pigs. In that meeting I referred to earlier we heard firsthand accounts that the issue around banning it right now is the lack of alternative. We know that there are members in this House who might think there is already an alternative with 1080. I know, being a beef producer's daughter and having lived on the land, that is just simply not available in the way those members think. SAP right now is a preventive for the feral pig population; we need to understand that.

This is a concerning change which has been rolled out as part of a bill masked quite simply—and I have been listening to some of the contributions about fluffy dogs—under the title of animal welfare. We on this side of the House believe that it is immensely important that we concentrate on animal welfare. That is why in the last term both the shadow minister for agriculture at the time and myself as leader introduced many reforms. We had animals trapped in hot cars—the hot dog policy. We had the dog baiting policy and the dogfighting policy. We also talked about the inspectorate powers because we do understand the importance of animal welfare on this side of the House.

I want to also note that I am a proud patron of the Nanango Kennel Club. I know that Andy, one of our hardworking security officers, actually volunteers for the RSPCA. He often drives out to Kingaroy and visits with Bonny at the RSPCA in Kingaroy when they are doing dog transfers.

I return to the bill. This is a perfect example of a Labor government that has absolutely no idea about the actual day-to-day problems facing not just cattle producers but all regional Queenslanders. The agriculture and livestock industry is the backbone of the entire Nanango electorate and the issue of feral pigs affects my community as a whole. The flooding events of this year have created perfect conditions for feral pigs to breed and numbers are on the rise. They breed extremely quickly, only second to rabbits. They cause enormous environmental damage to our land and they can destroy a crop overnight. The damage they cause can severely impact agricultural production and capabilities.

Right now what is top of mind for most producers is the fact that feral pigs carry disease. Surely with the serious biosecurity threats of foot-and-mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, African swine fever and Japanese encephalitis we cannot let our guard down. Yet here we have a bill in the middle of all these biosecurity issues that we keep talking about that will ban one of the tools producers and land managers so desperately need to keep these feral pests under control. I simply do not understand the timing of this bill. Therefore, I support AgForce's submission to the bill in relation to SAP poison. They note that we need every available tool to manage feral populations, especially in the event of an outbreak of exotic animal disease.

It is widely accepted that poison baiting is one of the most economical and effective ways to control feral pigs on a broad scale. As an example from my patch, in September the South Burnett Regional Council coordinated a feral animal baiting program. Councillor Scott Henschen, who is responsible for the natural resources management portfolio, reported on the success and the importance of this program. He stated—

A Coordinated Baiting Program was completed with 77 landowners throughout the South Burnett.

There were 2,492 pig baits distributed over 52,150 hectares and 205 different land parcels.

Not only does a coordinated program provide a greater degree of control across a more extensive area for both pigs and wild dogs, there are additional positive environmental benefits achieved through the control of feral cats and foxes that wreak havoc on our unique native wildlife.

That is what Councillor Scott Henschen said. Again I say it defies logic that, at a time when Queensland is facing one of the biggest biosecurity challenges in modern history, those opposite want to ban one of the most common and, importantly, the most effective way to control feral pigs, which we know carry these diseases and pests. The LNP opposition has recommended that, rather than banning this important product, the department should work with industry to understand the threat from feral pigs to spread exotic diseases and our capability to control feral pigs with or without SAP.

Again, I plead with the government to listen to the very experienced shadow minister, who actually understands this issue, has listened, like the members of the subcommittee—I stand corrected—who went out and listened to those landholders about the detrimental impact of banning this product which is so widely used in rural and regional Queensland. I note that many members in this House understand the need to control those feral pests. I was very pleased to hear that some of the city-based members from both sides of the House actually understand the need to control feral pests. That is why every single landholder and council needs every single tool at their disposal. That is why I urge this House to support the shadow minister's amendment to this bill.