




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2023

LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.15 pm): The last government speaker did an excellent job of covering off on stock routes, which was the part of the bill that I wanted to talk about. My time on the committee a few years ago was very enjoyable. I was the only female on the committee and I vividly remember our estimates hearing in December 2020. I believe it was the member for Gregory—I hope I am not misremembering—

Mr Weir interjected.

Ms PUGH: Thank you very much, member for Condamine. He had a lot of questions about stock routes. If I recall correctly, he also pulled up the minister because he said, ‘Your answer was too fulsome.’ I think we got that in *Hansard*. It was a very long and detailed answer. I know that many members of this House were very keen to see something done about stock routes. My contribution will relate stock routes information in a way that inner-city people can understand. I have some fun facts about stock routes that tie into the Mount Ommaney electorate so that people in my electorate can understand exactly what this means for regional communities. Almost everybody here eats beef. I certainly do. I am a direct beneficiary of stock routes. I am certainly not misleading the House in those terms.

I inform the House that last year there were 10 stock moved on the stock route network for every constituent in Mount Ommaney in 2019. In Queensland we have 72,000 kilometres of stock routes. That stock route network would reach around the boundary of Mount Ommaney between 2,000 and 3,000 times. Historically, there have been stock routes in Mount Ommaney. We are still home to some farms but not home to many cattle anymore. Of course, these have transitioned with time. The closest stock route today is still only 40 kilometres from the Mount Ommaney electorate—at Wivenhoe Pocket.

The aim of this legislation—I know that it is something that has been fought for for a long time—is to simplify the processes for state and local governments, which are the day-to-day managers of the network. It is supposed to include a more efficient process for declaring and amending the stock route network by creating a digital map and removing the requirement for this to be done by regulation. It will also remove the need for the minister to consider a local government’s draft plan. The aim, of course, is to simplify the process overall and make it generally easier.

I want to place on the record that my husband previously worked as an adviser to the minister and he did play an early role in the development of this legislation. I think it is important to declare that in the House. Of course, he is very excited to see this legislation before the House today. I am sure all members are keen to see this particular part of the legislation updated. With those few words—there are so many excited speakers yet to come—I commend the bill to the House.