




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (5.33 pm): I rise to speak to the Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I note the comments from the member for Bancroft earlier saying that this should just be called ‘the dog and fish bill’. It, in fact, covers a lot more than that—it includes farm business debt mediation, biosecurity, agricultural chemicals, a forestry amendment and the sugar industry as well. The fact that the member for Bancroft failed to mention all of those other amendments suggests the lack of priority that the Labor Party give to rural and regional Queensland. The priorities of the Labor Party clearly do not align with rural and regional Queensland.

I understand that in October 2018 the minister for agriculture signed off on a review into biosecurity in Queensland. That is a very long time ago. I believe the minister said that the review was meant to cover the five-year point from the commencement of the act in 2016. If the review commenced in 2018, I suspect that the legislation would have been before the House a lot sooner. If it commenced in 2021 which is five years from 2016, it certainly has been many years since then. Once again, unfortunately, we see the Labor Party not prioritising biosecurity in Queensland.

I note in their submission that AgForce raised the important issue that the government ‘ensure compulsory compliance by third parties with farm biosecurity plans’ and that ‘remoteness is no longer a protection for farmland, which is increasingly being accessed by renewable energy and other companies that are not compelled to take reasonable biosecurity measures required by primary producers as business owners, livestock and crop producers as custodians of biosecurity’.

I note that there is a local issue in Central Queensland with a gas company breaching a biosecurity management plan and that they are not being held to account by the Labor government to contracts of access. We know that everyone in Queensland has a biosecurity obligation and it is not being followed. I certainly urge the government to do more in that space.

Further, AgForce recommends additional amendment to the Biosecurity Act 2014, such that National Parks are required to undertake control of all listed species including Red Imported Fire Ants, similar to requirements expected of their private neighbours.

I could speak for days on the failures of the Labor government when it comes to fire ants under the biosecurity department here in Queensland. It is clear that the minister for agriculture has sat on his hands while these pests have got out of control. It is not an eradication plan because they have simply not been eradicated. The area they have been infesting has been spreading at a significant rate. They are now in New South Wales and this is appalling. This is the failure of this minister.

I move onto fisheries. We know that the government has relied on bad data that has been called out by many experts when they have made a lot of changes to fisheries in the past. This is very unfortunate for the great fishermen of Queensland, especially the great commercial fishermen who have been strangled by the Labor government. There is not many of them left. Next time you go to buy

seafood have a look at the label and see where it is from because there is a lot less coming from Queensland these days. It is coming from other parts of the world and I raise the question of the environmental impacts of where it is coming from. I suggest that the global environmental impact gets worse with every piece of the fishing industry that Labor shuts down in Queensland. We also know that the minister for fisheries cannot even hold a fishing rod properly so what does that say about fishing in Queensland.

This bill allows the chief executive to shut down fishermen when there are interactions with native wildlife. As the shadow minister for agriculture mentioned, someone could have a couple of crocs come up and hang around their fishing nets and that could give the chief executive a reason to turn up and shut their fishing operation down. It is ridiculous that that could happen in Queensland.

Queensland produces the cleanest, greenest and freshest seafood in the world and, yes, we need to look after that, but we need to do it with the right science, the right facts and the right consultation. It is clear that Labor has not consulted appropriately on this legislation. The QSIA raised significant concern regarding the privacy, copyright and intellectual property surrounding the installation of government mandated CCTV systems on private property. They make a comment that this is a 'big brother style solution'. It certainly does set a dangerous precedent.

To the few fishermen who are left: thank you for what you do. The LNP will always have your back. It is clear that the Labor government is more interested in strangling you in red tape and strangling you out of existence. I suggest that has something to do with the deals they do with the Greens.

In regard to the changes to dangerous dogs in Queensland: we know that there has, unfortunately, been deadly attacks in recent times. Dangerous dogs are a complex issue; however, it is clear that outlawing specific breeds of dogs is not going to be effective in identifying dangerous dogs or bad dog behaviour. When it comes to DNA, as a member of the human species, unfortunately, I share far too much DNA with those opposite. Look at their behaviour compared to that of those on this side of the House. We know that, case in point, that DNA does not identify the difference between well behaved and badly behaved dogs. I thought it was worth noting that when it comes to species. Cattle dogs are a great example. Some cattle dogs can be incredibly dangerous and some cattle dogs can be the most friendly of dogs someone might ever have.

At the end of the day, if Queenslanders want to get rid of dangerous beings from parliament then they need to show Labor the door in '24.