




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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QUEENSLAND FOOD FARMERS' COMMISSIONER BILL; CROSS-BORDER COMMISSIONER BILL; NIGHT-LIFE ECONOMY COMMISSIONER BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.04 pm): After that debacle, it is quite incredible that we are standing in this House today with 40 minutes to debate the Night-Life Economy Commissioner Bill, the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner Bill and the Cross-Border Commissioner Bill. They do not listen to the Integrity Commissioner, so why will they listen to these three commissioners? Seriously! This was something that the LNP called for back in 2017 and it was the member for Clayfield, when he was the leader, who espoused the reason we needed a cross-border commissioner. Then in the 2020 election, we announced it again. It was the member for Currumbin through COVID highlighting these massive issues and the need for a commissioner. The member for Southern Downs and the member for Warrego are the people who understand what it is like to represent people on a border community. This is not just about crime—it is certainly not just about crime. We welcome a commissioner because it is something the LNP has proposed. We are asking why these three bills are given 40 minutes for the entire debate. It is unbelievable.

There are so many issues when crossing a border, whether it is headers, tractors, water issues, electricity, rail or road. There are 12 local government areas that are impacted by those cross-border issues.

I really do want to thank Mayor Lawrence Springborg for his advocacy because he, alongside me on this side of the chamber, has been calling for a cross-border commissioner since well before 2007. This is one thing he said: 'It has been a long journey of advocacy.' Lawrence, I could not have said it better myself. These guys opposite, two minutes to midnight are handing in the homework. Of course we welcome it because it is our policy. He went on to say—

As the mayor of a border community, I know first-hand the challenges our community faces and I'm very grateful to see this Cross-Border Commissioner framework put in place.

Everyone on this side of the chamber should be given an opportunity to speak, but because the government is truncating the bills—40 minutes for three bills—there is not enough time, so I will sit down and allow my colleagues a bit of time to speak on this bill.