




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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**RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;
MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.17 pm): I rise to speak on the cognate debate of the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and the Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill. Firstly, I want to begin by acknowledging the collaborative work of the committee, the secretariat and my fellow committee members. Indeed, the work of this committee was a fine example of the purpose of committees in that we worked well together, we collaborated and we listened and took advice from the opposition. That is why it is incredibly disappointing to hear the member for Condamine stand up and be so negative and so disparaging to the minister with regard to the bill.

The bill itself is not what is causing the trauma for those on agricultural lands; it is the actual issue and as a government we were addressing the issue. The bill is not important but the issue itself is, and that is an important point to remember, member for Condamine, because it is a disgrace to try to refer that trauma to a particular person. This bill is designed to address a number of issues. Interestingly, as a committee we went through a committee process where we met with both sides of the argument. In that regard, I want to associate myself with the words of the member for Redlands who said that there were divergent views from both sides. Indeed, there was very conflicting information from both sides of the argument. Therefore, it is a great outcome that the minister has noted the committee's report and recommendations and has removed the subsidence issue from the bill.

That is contrary to what the member for Condamine is saying, namely, that he should never have been given the opportunity to put this in legislation. We took the advice of those opposite at face value and we worked honestly and with integrity, wanting the best outcome. For the member for Condamine to speak so disparagingly is incredibly disappointing. I had higher hopes of him.

I will not bother reading the praise I was going to give the committee. I will skip over that. I thank the submitters and in particular the witnesses at our public hearings on both bills. These hearings were at times difficult for some of the witnesses because of the trauma that they had experienced because of what was happening on their properties, not in regard to the bill. As such our government has listened. MEROLA is pivotal in modernising our regulatory framework to support Queensland's robust resources industry. By streamlining processes and updating risk factors we ensure our legislative environment remains efficient and effective.

Mrs Frecklington: I'm actually so pleased I'm in here—for both speeches.

Ms PEASE: Excuse me? I take offence at what you are saying.

Mrs Frecklington: I said that I am pleased I'm in here for both of your speeches.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Members, I will ask that there is no quarrelling. I did not hear the comment that was made.

Ms PEASE: You used the word 'she'. I am not sure which of those particular people is 'she'.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: If there is a member who would like to withdraw, now would be the time to do it. Otherwise, member for Lytton, you have the call.

Ms PEASE: I take personal offence at the member for Nanango's comments.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

Ms PEASE: The Mineral Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill amends resources and allied legislation, with a minor amendment to the Electricity Act 1994 included. The bill also makes minor amendments to the Electricity Act for clarification purposes. The bill was to introduce a regulatory framework to assess and manage impacts and potential impacts from coal seam gas induced subsidence occurring on Queensland's prime agricultural land. As a result of the feedback and the contribution of witnesses and submitters, the minister has outlined that the subsidence management framework will be removed from the bill to allow further consultation on the proposed framework to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to provide feedback on the subsidence management framework—again, a fine example of the government listening and addressing the issue.

Stakeholders also felt that there was not sufficient time provided during the committee process to understand the framework and identify any unintended consequences. The Department of Resources will work with key stakeholders, including the resources and agricultural sectors, during the implementation of the bill, including on the reforms to the rebranded Coexistence Queensland and Land Access Ombudsman and any further subordinate legislation-making process. Amendments tabled by the minister today have clarified that the membership of the Coexistence Queensland board and any community leader councils that they establish include a representative from the agricultural sector. Again, this is an example of the government listening.

I now turn to the Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. The principal policy objectives of the bill are to improve the sector's safety and health performance to reduce the occurrence of fatalities and serious accidents. It facilitates growth in high-reliability organisation behaviours within the resources sector, modernises regulatory enforcement powers and ensures resources safety and health legislation is contemporary and effective.

These reforms have been informed by a review of all fatal accidents in all Queensland mines and quarries from 2000 to 2019 the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry finalised in May 2021 and the Queensland government's mining industry-wide safety resets in 2019 and 2021. The bill contains a package of preventative and proactive reforms that amend the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Act 2020, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, collectively referred to as resources safety acts, to facilitate the growth in HRO behaviours within the resources sector—these amendments place emphasis on reforms that improve the implementation of critical controls by industry, increased competency requirements for critical roles, improved training, continual professional development requirements, information sharing and incident notification and reporting and strengthening protections for workers against reprisals. It will also modernise regulatory enforcement powers—these amendments will enhance existing compliance and enforcement tools under the resources safety acts, such as the directives framework, as well as introduce enforceable undertakings and further court orders. The amendments will provide for more contemporary legislation and enhance the operation and administration of the legislation through a range of minor operational amendments. Amendments tabled by the minister today are intended to ensure that persons who are not at or from a mine site, for example, a ROC, but may affect the safety and health of a person at a mine or quarry are subject to general safety and health obligations and, therefore, there is a specific reference to remote operating workers. I commend both bills to the House.