




Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.49 pm): I rise to support both the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and the Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. It is interesting that the member for Burdekin was concerned that these bills were being debated in cognate yet he had seven minutes left on the clock in which he could have further contributed to the conversation. The other interesting thing I noted from his contribution was that, clearly, he had not listened to the minister's response today because many of the matters he raised are being dealt with in the proposed amendments to be moved in consideration in detail. If he had read the briefing with regard to fossicking—obviously we all love to see Queensland tourism doing well—he would know that you only need to jump onto www.qld.gov.au to get your licence to go out and do some tourism fossicking. This has been the requirement for quite some time.

I take this opportunity to thank the secretariat. These two bills are very complex, particularly the MEROLA Bill. From my experience of travelling with the committee I can say that it depended which farmer you spoke with as to what side of the ledger they were on in terms of the subsidence management framework. To my mind, it is very difficult to reconcile one way or the other. I thank the minister for taking on board the committee's recommendations because it will be important to have further and deeper engagement with stakeholders to try and find where those twains shall meet.

I thank the committee for their work and their travel. I say to the members for Toowoomba North, Condamine and Callide: your knowledge was very valuable and I appreciated your insights, particularly as coal seam gas explorations occur in your electorates. Thank you for sharing your knowledge; we are very grateful. It was interesting to be out with stakeholders on their farms. The level of technical detail was extraordinarily difficult to grapple with in terms of what subsidence looked like. From one patch of farm to another person's patch of farm, there was changed topography—possibly the result of agricultural work on the land—that might affect how we go forward.

The committee recommended that the MEROLA Bill be passed. In terms of recommendation 2, the minister has foreshadowed amendments to be moved in consideration in detail that will address nearly every single component in terms of consultation, the work with Coexistence Queensland and the involvement of the agriculture industry. To bring all of these parties together will take a lot of work and it will take all parties and stakeholders coming together to find a way to deliver a framework that works for everyone.

I thank the Department of Resources and OGIA for returning to give us a second public briefing. That was extraordinarily valuable for all of the committee members, particularly given the technical nature of what OGIA do day in and day out and what data collection looks like. I am very grateful to them for coming back on 24 May. I also thank the 35 submitters to the MEROLA Bill and those who

allowed us to come onto their farms around Dalby. We held a public hearing in Toowoomba and a public hearing in Brisbane. I thank all of those stakeholders. I look forward to the opportunity to watch that further, deeper engagement as consultation occurs on subsidence management going forward.

In terms of the Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2024, I was grateful for the contributions of those opposite and the members for Lytton and Mundingburra, who had the opportunity to go into a coalmine. Unfortunately, I have not had the opportunity to do so. The mining companies were not able to accommodate the committee making a visit during this inquiry. I was a bit disappointed, I have to say. I thank BHP Mitsubishi Alliance for allowing us to visit their remote operating centre. It was absolutely fascinating to see on screens how mine sites in the Far North and port operations are coordinated from 480 Queen Street in Brisbane.

We made three recommendations on this particular bill. The first was that the bill be passed. In relation to recommendation 2, I thank the minister for clarifying the transitional period and the board's ability to make that determination. In relation to recommendation 3, that matter will be addressed through amendments to be moved in consideration in detail. I thank the minister for that.

I acknowledge the tireless work and the contribution of Michelle and Phil Dodunski. They lost their son in tragic circumstances 10 years ago after an accident on the Fairview Mining camp in 2013. It was a terrible loss but their tireless efforts have gone a long way towards contributing to reforms when it comes to site safety and safety on mine sites. It is fair to say that we on this side of the House are absolutely focused on safety and worker safety—whether that is in a mine, on a construction site or anywhere else. During the government's first term, in 2015 the pneumoconiosis bill was brought forward. With evolving technology, there is a process of continual improvement. Our government has the runs on the board to demonstrate clearly that we are committed to making sure that every worker here in Queensland is able to come home safely to their families. I again thank Michelle and Phil for their contribution. I place on the record again my sincere condolences on the loss of their son Gareth. On that note, I commend these two bills to the House.