




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.43 pm): I had to race over here tonight. There is so much going on in parliament. I had to run to get here. There is just so much going on in this place tonight, but I will tell members the one place where there is nothing going on, and that is right here in this chamber while we waste parliamentary time and resources on this bill. The previous speaker pointed out that I did not put together a statement of reservation. I try to take every piece of legislation seriously, and this is a serious piece of legislation, but you cannot really oppose nothing, can you? That is very difficult to do.

Having said that, I support the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and I would like to thank all three submitters to this bill. The overarching objective of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 is to clearly establish that electronic systems may be used for automatically issuing particular authorities. The objectives of the bill are to ensure authorities for low-risk activities under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 can continue to be issued automatically through the use of an electronic system; and to ensure there is no doubt regarding the validity of authorities under the Nature Conservation Act and the Environmental Protection Act that were previously issued automatically by electronic systems.

The committee reported on this bill on 2 May 2025. That is just under four months ago. It is completely understandable why the government has declared that this bill is urgent and must be passed today! If the two provisions in this bill are not passed today, the consequences could be devastating! Not wanting to be accused of scaremongering, I thought I would read from the report and quote from the minister's explanatory statement to back up my concerns and, I am sure, the concerns of all of the people of Greenslopes. The report states—

The authorities for low-risk activities under the NC Act include the provision of certain pet licenses (such as non-venomous snakes) and permits for camping in protected areas.

Imagine if we did not get this through tonight. The venomous snake owners association of Coorparoo would never let me live that down, I can tell you that! In his explanatory speech the minister explained how for some years authorities for low-risk activities have been issued via an automatic process where non-discretionary criteria are met. I want to highlight this point: the process is not being changed for the majority of authorities.

I do not want to diminish these changes but I certainly want to call out the abuse of parliamentary resources used to pass this bill. Just as *Seinfeld* was a show about nothing, this is a bill about nothing. I have heard LNP speaker after LNP speaker rail against omnibus bills in the past, but surely the provisions of this bill could have been bundled up with other matters. I know those opposite hate an omnibus bill, but surely, for the 50th time this week, they could have thrown their principles aside and introduced an omnibus bill. They threw integrity, transparency and accountability, which they love to bang on about, out the window when the Premier and Deputy Premier interfered in the appointment of the CHO and appointed a partisan player to the Redistribution Commission.

There is probably another reason it is hard to get enough material for an omnibus bill, and that is that there is no environmental agenda on that side of the House. I have to admit that it must be tough being the Minister for the Environment on that side of the House. The minister was willing and able to talk about climate change during estimates—and he even said so at the hearing, if I remember correctly, saying, 'I'm prepared to talk about it'—but he was prevented from doing so by the Leader of the House, the committee chair and the LNP committee members. Clearly that crew saw what was coming at the LNP conference with a group of crazies killing off net zero.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr O'Shea): Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to keep your comments to the bill in front of us.

Mr JKELLY: The key question for this parliament should not be whether we pass this bill or not. It should be: why are we wasting parliamentary resources on this bill? We are here now, so let's get this bill passed. I just appeal to the minister: next time try a bit harder and maybe put three provisions in your next bill! I commend the bill to the House.