




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, now before the Queensland parliament. Before I address this legislation, I place on record my sympathies and offer my condolences to the victims of and the families of those affected by the brutal terrorist attack that occurred overnight in London. Certainly democratic freedoms, values and associated parliamentary institutions must be cherished, respected and defended at all costs.

The policy objective of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 is to improve administration of the Land Act 1994 and the Land Title Act 1994 to allow for the designation of watercourses or lakes as reserves; to align Queensland's titles registry system with those of other jurisdictions; and to make minor changes to improve the operation of the acts.

It is important to note that this bill predominantly makes and only makes minor amendments with respect to streamlining the use of the Land Act and the Land Title Act. One of the amendments will provide both acts with the ability to grant executors of a will registered in another jurisdiction equal status to that of one registered here in Queensland. Although this can be classified as a minor amendment, it certainly does simplify the act.

This bill makes six significant other amendments to the two acts, a couple of which I will mention. Clauses 9 to 16 of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 expand the purpose for which a rolling term lease can be designated and clarify the process for the extension of rolling term leases. This is an important change as it amends the provisions of a rolling term lease for a significant tourism development on a regulated island to include adjacent leases which are seaward of the tidal boundary, an example of this being a jetty or marina which supports the primary operation. This will enable the adjacent lease to be improved as a rolling term lease so as to align with and be tied to the existing rolling term lease so they can be managed in their entirety together. It also clarifies when a rolling term lease can be renewed and the term for which renewal may be sought. This is certainly important for adequate planning purposes.

The amendment with respect to the removal of ministerial consent to subdivide Indigenous DOGITs is important because it will allow such subdivisions to be regulated solely by the Aboriginal Land Act or the Torres Strait Islander Land Act. Again, it is important to note that we on this side of the House support these long overdue changes, given the lack of progress made by this Labor government in relation to the former LNP government's terrific initiatives. It should be noted that the LNP members of the Queensland parliament's Agriculture and Environment Committee have asked that their concerns about the very poor consultation by the Palaszczuk Labor government in relation to this bill be recorded. It has become common practice for the Palaszczuk Labor government to introduce bills into the Queensland parliament without prior adequate and proper consultation. This then leads to problems at the committee level which could have been resolved before the bill was progressed by the relevant minister.

AgForce, the peak body representing the state's agricultural sector, only became aware of this bill through the committee's alert process once the bill had been introduced and referred for consideration. Why, I ask, would the department overlook consultation with the peak industry body? AgForce subsequently contacted the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to seek information about the rationale for the bill, in particular the clause relating to rolling term leases, which is enormously important to pastoralists for both their operations and their sustainability.

With respect to those amendments being moved outside of the long title of the bill, I know that the shadow minister for natural resources and mines and shadow minister for northern development, the member for Hinchinbrook, continues to assess those, along with the LNP generally. The proposed amendments relate to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 in relation to a long-running commercial dispute in the Bowen Basin and relate to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004.

I simply make the observation that for additional amendments proposed to be moved outside the long title of the bill often there seems to be an inadequate time frame for appropriate assessment and commentary, given some of the significant implications and potential unintended consequences. I certainly reserve any commentary with respect to those amendments and what impacts they could have on the Queensland resources sector, although I am sure that the intent of those is to resolve and validate some oversights or gaps with respect to statutory office holder obligations. Certainly, that is my interpretation of the particular amendments the minister has circulated and the accompanying explanatory notes.