




Speech By
Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2015

MOTION: AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion that was moved by my parliamentary colleague and oppose the amendment that was moved by the member for South Brisbane. I think the member for Nanango summed up the contribution that was made by the member for South Brisbane. I think everybody on this side of the House who has a degree of understanding of the motivation behind the motion that was moved tonight found that contribution not just xenophobic but offensive to all the people to whom this motion should give some sense of security. This motion is about ensuring that the fear that people on the land have about what Labor governments do with vegetation management laws, what Labor governments do with property rights, will not happen in this instance.

When they look back across the history of vegetation management to 1999 when this legislation was first introduced, they have good reason to fear. The Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane, suggested an amendment that was about guaranteeing consultation. There was no consultation in 1999. There was no consultation on any one of the bills that were introduced into this House—and there were six or eight of them after that. The only consultation was the preference deals that were done at each election to get Greens preferences. After each election the government came back in here and amended the vegetation management legislation to further strip away the property rights of Queensland landholders until we reached a position where those landholders had almost lost completely their property rights on large areas of their land.

On coming to power the LNP government recognised the unfairness and the injustice of the legislation and moved to re-empower landholders, moved to give back to landholders the property rights that had been stolen and given away for the sake of Greens preferences over so many years. We put in place a balanced system that was based on codes of conduct, that was based on consultation and that was put together after a lot of discussion with stakeholders. The codes of conduct were put in place to address the need for landholders to be able to develop their land for high-value agriculture, to get the economic growth and the jobs that are necessary and that this government talks about all the time but never delivers. All of that was in the amendments that we put in place to the Vegetation Management Act.

Tonight, what we heard from the member for South Brisbane will strike fear into the hearts of landholders across Queensland. Rather than give them the security that the mover of this motion had sought from this parliament, I think the contribution from the member for South Brisbane will strike fear into the hearts of landholders across Queensland. That sense of security is so important to landholders in developing their properties. They need to have that sense of security—that there will be a stable regulatory environment rather than a return to the situation where their rights are traded away by xenophobic members such as the member for South Brisbane, who will use—

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. I find that remark offensive. I ask for it to be withdrawn.

Mr SEENEY: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide.

Mr SEENEY: I withdraw, but anyone who heard—

Mr SPEAKER: Unconditionally.

Mr SEENEY: I withdraw unconditionally.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr SEENEY: But I think that the people of Queensland will make their judgement about the contribution of the member for South Brisbane. This motion seeks to give reassurance to a group of Queenslanders who at the moment are under extreme pressure and who, quite understandably, are in fear of a Labor government, which looks intent on continuing its horrific record of stripping away the property rights of those landholders at a time when they carry a burden that few people in South-East Queensland can imagine. I can only suggest to every member in this House that they should support this motion tonight and reject the amendment that has been moved by the member for South Brisbane.