




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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### **FOREST WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. From the outset and as I always do, I thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat staff for their work and all those who participated in the hearings and voiced their opinion on this very large project. By way of overview, this project will see 226 wind turbines produce about 1,200 megawatts of energy. This is certainly not a small project. This is a massive project. To give members an idea of the size of the wind turbines, it was stated during the committee process that they are almost the size of the Eiffel Tower. They are massive towers. That goes to show how big this project is.

Under the current framework, the Forestry Act 1959 prohibits developments like this in forestry areas. It is interesting to note that forestry areas were once owned by the Queensland government, but were sold under licence by the Bligh Labor government.

**Mr Powell:** Palaszczuk was kicking around as a minister.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** The Premier was certainly a minister in those days.

**Mr Hart:** They sold assets.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, they did sell this asset and they got \$603 million for it. It shows people the hypocrisy of those opposite. They come into this chamber and say, 'You guys sell assets.' They are the ones who sold assets. The Labor Party sold assets in this state. They have had many years in government and they carry on about the LNP selling assets. They are the ones who sell assets. I could go on with a long list of the assets sold, but that would be diverging from the bill we are debating.

**Mr Sorensen:** Who sold the assets?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Thank you, Ted. Opposition members of the committee expressed a lot of concern with regard to consultation with local landowners and what impact the proposed transmission lines will have on potential land prices. This project has been around for about three years but it was only late last year that these individuals found out about it. This is a blight on the government's ability to inform residents about what is going on in these areas. These are massive towers. People will be able to see these towers for miles. The closest properties are some kilometres away, but given the size of the turbine blades—I believe they are about 50 to 70 metres long—they will create noise and will certainly be visible.

The Gympie Regional Council raised concerns about the lack of consultation around the proposed development. There were residents who stated that they feel they were not consulted. They expressed concerns about the health risks for themselves and the wildlife et cetera.

It is a major project. It is obviously going to go ahead. The LNP is supportive of this project, but I understands the concerns of the residents who will have high-voltage lines going through their properties. There are a lot of concerns when it comes to high-voltage powerlines and the potential impact on people's land values.

No consultation has been afforded to these individuals, especially when it comes to compensation for the impact on their land values and land prices. This is something that the government has overlooked. I know back in my patch that the consultation around exit 57 was woeful. The local community got duckshoved to the corner and the department did whatever it liked. This is where the government is failing. They need to consult with these residents. When it comes to compensation, they should be talking to residents right now and working through the process.