

whoever they may be, which is what a fair and reasonable government does.

To suggest you can remove the certainty of a permit would send shivers down the spine of any industry. That is exactly what the quasi-Leader of the Opposition, the member for Karama, has done.

The pipeline will bring about vast benefits for Australia and the Northern Territory in job construction, upstream development, downstream gas utilisation and investing in more infrastructure in roads, bridges and telecommunications. The opportunities that exist in regional and remote parts of the Territory are significant. Downstream in Darwin, for example, will be quite large because we have the ability now to have a source of energy to stimulate a manufacturing industry. That should not be sneezed at.

I support the protection of our environment in Australia, and one thing that grates on my is when protectionists seek to stop energy development and utilisation in Australia, only to export minerals for development offshore where environmental standards are not at the same level as in Australia. Around the room, everything in this Chamber is processed and developed, whether it is the plastic lids on the top of the water jugs or the glass or our mobile phones. They are currently being developed in other parts of the world that I believe do not have the same environmental standards we have in Australia.

As we seek to improve our environmental standards in the Northern Territory we will have the best environmental protection for the petroleum industry in Australia, potentially in the world. It is our responsibility to continue to develop here, not just because it builds jobs but because it protects the environment on a broader level rather than exporting materials overseas to process where they do not have that strength of environmental legislation. It is hypocritical to say, 'Not in my back yard'. We need to have it in our back yard and do our best to protect everything we can. That is the way we should go.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to the member for Nelson and my parliamentary colleagues, thank you very much for your support on this bill.

Motion agreed to; bill read a second time.

**Mr GILES (Chief Minister)(by leave):** Mr Deputy Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to; bill read a third time.

## EDUCATION BILL (Serial 142)

Continued from 18 November 2015.

**Ms MANSON (Wanguri):** Mr Deputy Speaker, this is a very important debate. It is very clear to me that education is the key to creating a world of opportunity for every child. Education will help the Northern Territory overturn the gross disadvantages we see far too often, and this bill will play an important part in ensuring we can run our schools and education system the way they need to be run.

Until now the government has done a very good job in consulting with Territorians on this bill. Given the seriousness of this body of work, it has made a significant effort to give people an opportunity to have a say. However, the final bill has effectively only had one-and-a-half weeks of full consultation rather than a full month, which should be the case if sound principles of introduction and passage of legislation were followed. Instead, we have had the bare minimum time to consult on this final bill before us. To top it off, this is occurring at what is the busiest time of the year for people working within education and schools.

The bill was introduced in Week 7 of Term 4. We had Week 8 of Term 4 to consult and now we are in Week 9 of Term 4 debating and giving this bill passage. This is terrible timing which means there has not been the opportunity for the full and comprehensive consultation and feedback we would have liked to have seen with this bill.

We have had some debate today on a no confidence motion in which I spoke about consultation and the way in which the government operates. I feel frustrated that at this point we have this extensive bill going through on urgency. The Education Bill is 116 pages so it is an extensive body of work with a lot of detail to go through. I have not been able to go through it with the level of detail, the number of meetings and consultations I would have liked to have had with the final bill that was presented in this Chamber.

I look at the preparation of the Education Bill as preparation for a marathon. It takes months of hard work, training and a plan to get there. You can see that the department has put in a lot of hard work from the point of the discussion paper to the release of the exposure draft and the consultations they undertook. That was not even at the end. Upon making his second reading speech, the minister introduced a 116-page bill, finalised for all to see the content.

There is not enough time at this time of year to properly consult so we can have the full debate