

Ms Fyles: Dave, do you not have a plane to catch?

Mr TOLLNER: I will put the plane off if Lynne stays around, without a doubt.

The member for Nhulunbuy is one of my favourite people in this joint. She gets a bit snarly at times, particularly around 2 pm, but 2 pm to 3 pm must be the witching hour for all of us. Outside of that time frame we generally get along all right.

I thank the members for Nhulunbuy, Nightcliff and Wanguri and all other members of the opposition for supporting this bill; it is very worthwhile. It is an important step along the way to utilities market reform, which this government is driving. It will be great to have the Australian Energy Regulator operating in the Northern Territory; it will bring us kudos. I commend the bill to the House.

Motion agreed to; bill read a second time.

Mr TOLLNER (Treasurer)(by leave): Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to; bill read a third time.

**PORTS MANAGEMENT BILL
(Serial 110)
PORT OF DARWIN BILL
(Serial 111)
PORTS MANAGEMENT (REPEALS AND
RELATED CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS)
BILL
(Serial 113)**

Continued from 27 November 2014.

Ms FYLES (Nightcliff): Mr Acting Deputy Speaker, we have seen the CLP government sell our TIO, and today we debate legislation that will sell our port. The CLP government does not have a mandate to do this, and it has not taken it to the Territory community, but is determined to ram it through. The members opposite will use their numbers in this House to pass this legislation today, but not before we articulate that we do not support the move to privatise and sell our port.

I will start by commenting on the press release the member for Blain sent out earlier today, claiming unanimous support. The press release says:

In unanimously accepting the report and its recommendations it follows that the bill should pass unimpeded on the basis that Opposition and Independent members have agreed that it encapsulates the best regulatory framework for a lease.

Last night in debate on that committee motion, the Leader of the Opposition made it clear by saying:

... it is important to say up front that our consistent position on the port has been that port assets should not be leased or privatised without a mandate from the people at the next Territory election. I make it very clear that although we support the amendments to the bills recommended in the select committee's report, it should not be inferred that we support passage of the bills before the next election, because we do not.

We are extremely concerned about the privatisation of our port. We believe that we should have investment in the port; management and operation of the port are critically important to our social and economic development in the Territory.

The Leader of the Opposition said yesterday that leasing the port should not be rushed to suit the CLP's political agenda at the expense of public interest.

The Chief Minister's response at the committee's debate at midnight last night, the tabled government response and amendment schedule to the port bills, and the rammed-through bills on the first sitting day after the committee's report was tabled – all of these things show that there has not been community consultation.

Under the CLP's approach there is no guarantee the public interest will be well served by any concessions made, side deals or the quantum of revenue received from the successful bidder. We need to understand how the public interest will be protected.

We were concerned when reading comments from the member for Blain in the *NT News* business supplement that the highest offer for the port lease probably will not be accepted. I do not take issue with this as a matter of principle, but the comments seem to infer that the decision of the successful bidder is well-advanced even though we have a select committee.

We saw the sale of the port first flagged last year. We had not finished debating the TIO sale, which was rammed through this parliament on urgency without any consultation with our community, before the Chief Minister flagged the sale of the port.

We saw arrogance and contempt for Territorians who do not want public assets sold. Take public asset sales to the next election, and take it to the community. We saw that in Queensland and look at what happened there.