

SECURING NSW STEEL INDUSTRY BILL 2017*First Reading***Bill introduced on motion by member for Keira, read a first time and printed.***Second Reading***Mr RYAN PARK (Ke ira) (10:50):** I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

We are back. That is how it works for us in the Illawarra. Labor Party may get defeated once but it does not crawl back into a corner and cry, whinge and get upset; it comes back to the oldest Parliament in this country and introduces new legislation. Today I have heard that in the corridors of power everyone is grateful the Opposition has bills otherwise we would have gone home yesterday at about 4.00 p.m. They say, "We are a big Government of reform" but I cannot believe the Government's reform agenda. Bring back the library bill! I thank the member for Cessnock, the shadow Minister for Finance, for assisting the Government and the Parliament to ensure that works goes on.

In the next couple of weeks the Opposition will probably introduce a bill to reduce the number of sitting days for the rest of the term just to save some costs—in this place we are about economic responsibility and fiscal management. At this rate Parliament does not need to sit three days a week so we will introduce a Fiscal Management (Reduction in Parliament Hours) Bill.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I ask the member for Keira to return to the bill.

Mr RYAN PARK: The Securing NSW Steel Industry Bill 2017 is a bill that my great friends and colleagues, the member for Wollongong and the member for Shellharbour, and myself are glad to have re-introduced. We are so proud of and passionate about this bill because it not only gives security to tens of thousands of jobs, which one would think is reasonably important, and hundreds of small businesses and contractors who rely on the steel industry, but it also ensures that this nation and its economy have a strong, robust and vibrant steel industry going forward. That is critical to the region I am fortunate to represent and to the men and women that my colleagues, the member for Wollongong and the member for Shellharbour, are so grateful to represent. It is critical to the hardworking local communities in the Illawarra, south-western Sydney and Western Sydney who rely on a strong and vibrant steel industry.

I will outline the key objectives of this bill. We will mandate for the first time in the history of this nation at least 90 per cent use of Australian-made steel in publicly funded infrastructure projects, a policy that my colleagues and I are very proud of. The hardworking men and women of the Illawarra are proud of that policy. The mood of the men and women in communities across New South Wales is that the Government should use its purchasing power to drive stronger, economic and social reforms. That will mean that when we make those significant purchases with taxpayers' money to build significant infrastructure projects we will get more than a road, bridge, hospital or a school and will support apprenticeships, long-term traineeships, small businesses, contractors and suppliers.

That concept is not new; it is happening around the globe as we speak. There is a shift in the way countries are looking at using taxpayers' funding to make sure they drive beyond a low price for a product, but this bill does more than that. This bill also ensures that we have a New South Wales Steel Industry Advocate to certify the use of Australian-made steel and monitor its use in publicly funded projects. It is critical, important sensible reform. I thank the Government for basically adopting that reform. We dragged the Government down to the Illawarra kicking and screaming. No-one was talking about steel until my friends, the member for Wollongong and the member for

Shellharbour, brought it to this place. The economic rationalists on the other side basically said "Too bad, so sad—we'll hit the wall".

Recently we had a roundtable discussion with a report due back in 30 days. Hopefully the report will not be secret like most of their reports. Apparently it is a report back to the member for Kiama, who prefers nowadays to be called the Parliamentary Secretary for Parliamentary Secretaries. The member for Wollongong ably represented us, because the member for Shellharbour and I were not allowed to attend this secret meeting, and made it clear in written correspondence that we want to see the advice and the report. This reform is not driven by the member for Kiama; it is not his decision. It is a bipartisan issue, and we want to make sure the men and women of the communities we represent are getting a fair deal. At the moment we do not believe they are getting a fair deal because if they were, the Government would have supported this bill a few weeks ago. If they knock it off today, I will re-introduce the bill again. This bill will be continually re-introduced until Labor gets elected in March 2019 when we will introduce it from the government benches. This bill is the first plank in securing tens of thousands of jobs in one of the key strategic industries in not only the New South Wales economy but also the Australian economy.

I acknowledge that the member for Kiama is in the Chamber. As I always say, on my signature block I put the "Member for Keira" above everything else. Representing our electorate is the most important job we have in this place. The Steel Industry Advocate, as outlined in this bill, will be located in the Illawarra region because the Illawarra has steelworks and a very large manufacturing base. We will make sure that the watchdog, the advocate, is close to the industry and to stakeholders in the Illawarra, at the centre of the steel industry in this country, and not in Sydney.

This is the first time that this has been proposed in New South Wales. It is a Labor reform and this Government should support it. I understand that about 48 hours ago my friend the member of Wollongong did some good investigative work into a very complex thing—street signs. They are a unique product that very few people can manufacture. The member for Wollongong saw a large street sign recently and noticed something interesting: It had a big label down the middle saying "Made in Vietnam". He thought that was unusual, because our good friend the lord mayor, who is all of a sudden a big advocate for steel and has a strong steel procurement policy in council, was caught out.

The reality is that Labor is doing the work to drive this reform and secure the steel industry. If this bill does not pass today, I and my friends the member for Wollongong and the member for Shellharbour will be back. We will keep introducing legislation on this issue and debating it. Because of its critical importance, I declare this bill to be an urgent bill.

The ASSISTANT SPEAKER: The question is that this bill be considered an urgent bill.

The House divided.

Ayes30

Noes43

Majority13

AYES

Aitchison, Ms J

Car, Ms P

Crakanthorp, Mr T

Doyle, Ms T

Harrison, Ms J

Hornery, Ms S

Atalla, Mr E

Catley, Ms Y

Dib, Mr J

Finn, Ms J

Haylen, Ms J

Kamper, Mr S

Barr, Mr C

Chanthivong, Mr A

Donato, Mr P

Harris, Mr D

Hoenig, Mr R

Lalich, Mr N (teller)

Leong, Ms J
McKay, Ms J
Park, Mr R
Smith, Ms T F

Lynch, Mr P
Mehan, Mr D
Robertson, Mr J
Warren, Mr G

McDermott, Dr H (teller)
Minns, Mr C
Scully, Mr P
Washington, Ms K

NOES

Aplin, Mr G
Bromhead, Mr S (teller)
Coure, Mr M
Dominello, Mr V
Gibbons, Ms M
Greenwich, Mr A
Henskens, Mr A
Lee, Dr G
Notley-Smith, Mr B
Pavey, Mrs M
Piper, Mr G
Sidoti, Mr J
Taylor, Mr M
Upton, Ms G
Williams, Mrs L

Ayres, Mr S
Conolly, Mr K
Crouch, Mr A
Elliott, Mr D
Goward, Ms P
Gulaptis, Mr C
Hodgkinson, Ms K
Maguire, Mr D
O'Dea, Mr J
Perrottet, Mr D
Roberts, Mr A
Speakman, Mr M
Toole, Mr P
Ward, Mr G

Barilaro, Mr J
Constance, Mr A
Davies, Ms T
Evans, Mr L
Grant, Mr T
Hazzard, Mr B
Johnsen, Mr M
Marshall, Mr A
Patterson, Mr C (teller)
Petinos, Ms E
Rowell, Mr J
Stokes, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Williams, Mr R

PAIRS

Cotsis, Ms S
Daley, Mr M
Foley, Mr L
Mihailuk, Ms T
Watson, Ms A
Zangari, Mr G

Anderson, Mr K
George, Mr T
Berejiklian, Ms G
Piccoli, Mr A
Kean, Mr M
Provest, Mr G

Motion negatived.

Debate adjourned.