

the wide jurisdiction of the Planning and Environment Court, it is considered appropriate for the provisions establishing the jurisdiction and powers of the court to be transferred out of the state's planning legislation and into its own specialised, stand alone bill. Having a separate bill for the Planning and Environment Court will enhance the role and visibility of the court as a distinct, specialised and accountable court to hear planning and environment disputes. A stand alone bill will also ensure its assignment to the most appropriate minister under the administrative arrangements and assure its efficacy.

The Planning and Environment Court currently has jurisdiction from approximately 28 different acts. This bill continues the establishment and function of the court, along with its jurisdiction and powers. While many of the reforms are of a technical nature, one of the more significant reforms focuses on providing an overriding philosophy for the Planning and Environment Court. That overriding philosophy is currently found in the Planning and Environment Court Rules and not the principal legislation. It is considered that the philosophy and principles for exercising the court's jurisdiction is better embedded in the bill. The philosophy provides that in conducting a Planning and Environment Court proceeding and applying the rules, the Planning and Environment Court must facilitate the just and expeditious resolution of the issues and avoid undue delay, expense and technicality. There are a myriad of other reforms, including the introduction of security for costs to remove doubt about whether it can apply to the court; the refinement of the rules, orders and directions powers of the court; and expanding the court's excusatory powers to prevent development being defeated by legal technicality.

Many of the reforms have been made in response to stakeholder feedback and extensive consultation has been undertaken in relation to these reforms. This bill, as well as the Planning and Development Bill and the Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity—Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, aims to deliver the best planning system in Australia that stimulates positive development and provides opportunities for all Queenslanders now and into the future. Again the LNP looks forward to open consultation and engagement as part of the committee process. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (11.58 am): I move—

~~That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~


~~Bill read a first time.~~

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (PLANNING FOR PROSPERITY— CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.58 am): I present a bill for an act to make consequential amendments to the legislation stated in this act for the purpose of the Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity) Act 2015, and to amend other legislation stated in this act for particular purposes. I table the bill, explanatory notes and an erratum to the explanatory notes and I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity—Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

Tabled paper: Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity—Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity—Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, erratum to explanatory notes.

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The Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity—Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 is the final plank of the package of bills I am presenting to the House today. I refer to my previous comments made in the introductory speech for the Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity) Bill 2015 and I expressly incorporate those comments in this introductory speech as well. The bill amends 66 acts to reflect the proposed enactment of the planning and development bill and the planning court bill. In the interests of brevity, I will not go through the amendments as they relate to all 66 acts.

However, I will touch on some of the more major amendments. The bill includes amendments to: update references to the Sustainable Planning Act with references to the planning and development act or planning court act; replace terminology contained in the Sustainable Planning Act with new terminology used in the new act; omit referral and assessment triggers for other state agencies that are redundant as a result of the establishment of the State Assessment and Referral Agency; and remove duplication in other acts of planning processes or requirements that are more appropriately dealt with under the planning legislation.

This bill and the other bills I have introduced aim to deliver the best planning scheme in Australia that will stimulate positive development and provide opportunities for all Queenslanders now and into the future. It is a sign that this LNP opposition is indeed active and engaged in implementing reforms that will have positive economic benefits for the state. I have already mentioned some of the positive planning reforms undertaken by the LNP in government. These are further positive reforms and this is what the industry is crying out for.

As I have mentioned already, extensive consultation has been undertaken in the drafting of these bills, led by the former deputy premier, his office and departmental staff. I particularly thank the departmental officers for their work during the preparation of these bills, because I understand the amount of work they put into this package of bills and it is important that they be acknowledged. It is my pleasure to deliver these bills today, but I acknowledge all the work that has gone into them by everyone involved.

I also look forward to engaging once again with stakeholders and third parties as part of the committee process. As I have mentioned previously, we are open to change and we are willing to engage with the committee to make sure we get the best outcome for all Queenslanders, because ultimately that is what these bills are all about. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (12.01 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

~~Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date~~



~~**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136, the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report to the House on the Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity) Bill, the Planning and Development (Planning Court) Bill and the Planning and Development (Planning For Prosperity—Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 13 October 2015.~~

~~In nominating 13 October, while I am cognizant of the size of the bills I am also cognizant of the very extensive work that has gone into preparing these bills. There has been over 18 months' worth of consultation in the preparation of these bills. As I indicated in my explanatory speech, work first started on these bills in June 2013. Full consultation with all affected groups has been undertaken, including through property forums, planning group forums and direct consultation with interested groups. Indeed, for the benefit of the House I tabled a results of consultation document published in December 2014 that outlines not only the comments that were made by people but also the~~