



Speech by

**Hon. J. ELDER**

**MEMBER FOR CAPALABA**

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Hansard 20 October 1998

### **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL**

The Industrial Development Amendment Bill is an important initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of businesses in Queensland and, through them, providing jobs for Queenslanders. As part of our policy statements before the last election, we gave a commitment to "ensure the provision of efficient infrastructure, including serviced industrial land, which effectively meets the changing needs of industry"—Business and Industry New Directions Statement. The introduction of this Bill affirms this Government's commitment to promoting business development in this State and meeting its election promises.

The Bill seeks to amend the Industrial Development Act 1963 by removing redundant provisions, making the methods of dealing in industrial land more efficient, and streamlining the manner in which associated funds are handled. The primary objective of the Industrial Development Act was to enable the granting of financial and certain other land-based forms of assistance to industry in Queensland. However, it is an old piece of legislation and has required significant amendment to bring it up to date, eliminate unnecessary and redundant provisions and provide the basis for the efficient and accountable administration of the industrial estates.

For example, the Industries Assistance Board was dissolved in 1986 by operation of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation Act 1985. As a result, the capacity to provide loans and loan guarantees under the Industrial Development Act has not been available since July 1986. The removal of provisions such as these will not only bring the Act up to date; it will also be a more focused and clear legislative framework for my department's land-based services under the Industry Location Scheme.

A key feature is the expansion of the definition of "industry". This will mean greater flexibility in the administration of the scheme, allowing a wider range of businesses to locate or expand on the industrial estates, creating diversity and jobs and ensuring that the businesses located there are able to access services and facilities not previously provided on the estates, such as banking services. The changes are particularly important to support the effective development of the technology parks which need a broader range of supporting infrastructure to enable them to become technology hubs for the State.

Care has been taken in developing the broader definition of "industry" to ensure that the strategic positioning of the estates is not compromised. Each estate has a strategic development plan which defines the types of industry to be located on the estates. This ensures that mutually supportive and appropriate industry structures can be developed on the estates and will facilitate the development of clusters of businesses to gain maximum leverage for business growth and sustainability and job creation.

My department continues to address market gaps and strategic planning failures. The establishment of a commercialised business unit to deliver property services has maximised returns to Government on the Property Services Group assets, which are valued at around \$320m. Commercialisation also provides the levels of accountability in the use of these assets which the public of Queensland demands.

Whilst the majority of the amendments are aimed at cleaning up the Act and removing redundant provisions, there are a number of important amendments which seek to—

clarify and increase the flexibility of my powers as the corporation sole of the Minister for Industrial Development so that the powers adequately reflect the stated objective and practices of the corporation;

provide an expanded definition of "industry" to reflect contemporary industry structures and to enable the siting of supporting infrastructure, such as information technology; and

establish a revised Industrial Estates Construction Fund in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and remove the Estates Maintenance Fund to simplify financial systems and to increase accountability and transparency in the administration of the corporation's funds.

It is my view that the adoption of the amendments to the Industrial Development Act by this House will result in a more efficient and effective arrangement for the administration of the industrial estates in Queensland. These estates represent a sizeable Government asset and foster the development and expansion of industry in this State. Consequently, it is essential that they be managed in the most efficient manner possible. The objective of the Industry Location Scheme is to ensure that business and industry is encouraged to locate in Queensland because appropriately zoned land and infrastructure is available at a competitive cost. It is my firm belief that these amendments will enable us to achieve this objective. I commend the Bill to the House.

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