



Speech by  
**Mr DENVER  
BEANLAND**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

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Hansard 27 April 1999

**STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL**

**Mr BEANLAND** (Indooroopilly—LP) (3.30 p.m.): As the Minister indicated, the Bill amends some 83 pieces of legislation. Whilst the Opposition supports the streamlining of procedures, we must ensure that any changes are in terms of policy matters and are concise and, as the Minister said in his second-reading speech, minor and non-controversial. For example, I notice that there is a whole host of amendments concerning the District Court. When we were in office, "district courts" was changed to "District Court". Consequently, a whole host of other pieces of legislation need to be amended, to change the wording of "district courts" to "District Court". There is now one District Court throughout the whole State. That is one of the reasons why there are so many amendments, and I notice that the Minister has just sent around some more amendments relating to that particular issue. There are quite a lot of them, and I accept that. That was a policy matter that was decided under the courts legislation that I introduced prior to the last election and that the House passed. Now we are tidying up other legislation. The amendments that the Minister has circulated in the House today provide a good example of what this legislation is actually about.

However, I am concerned about one matter in the legislation, which relates to the South Bank Corporation. As the Minister stated in his second-reading speech, the Bill increases the membership of the corporation by two members. However, the Minister has not given an indication of the reasons for that increase. Without a full explanation for that change, the matter should be dealt with in a separate piece of legislation. This is hardly a minor change. The Minister is increasing the size of the board by some 25%, which is quite a significant increase. No reason has been given for that. I do not know whether the increase is to bring in additional expertise, or whether it has something to do with meeting the obligations or workload of the South Bank Corporation, which is performing a lot of work that is of great significance to the city and the State.

This is a significant change. It is not a minor change and it may be very controversial. However, we do not know because we have not received an explanation from the Minister. I have not raised this matter publicly, because I wanted to hear the Minister's reasons for the move, which may be a very controversial one. Indeed, it may have something to do with the bridge that the Government proposes to build across the river, which seems to have attracted some controversy. We are yet to hear the reason for the amendment.

The amendment increases the size of the board by 25%, which is a significant increase. At the moment, the corporation consists of a chairperson, two members appointed on the nomination of the Brisbane City Council and not more than five other members, who are to be appointed by the Governor in Council. The chairperson must not be an officer of the Public Service. Schedule 1 contains additional provisions about the membership and procedures of the corporation. Currently, the board has eight members and under this proposal that will increase by two to 10. The Bill changes the figure "5" to "7". That is a significant matter.

While I would be the first to agree that the District Court legislation was debated fully, I point out that it was not controversial. As I recall, it was supported by both sides of the House and it was a sensible change. However, that may not be the situation with the change to this legislation. I had hoped that we would hear a reason for the proposed change in the Minister's second-reading speech. Perhaps the Minister has been given a hospital pass, as they say, by the Premier, whose portfolio it

comes under. The South Bank Corporation legislation is the Premier's legislation, and perhaps it involves a matter that the Premier does not want raised. Perhaps he wants to appoint a couple of his mates to the board. He has the Minister for Local Government and Leader of the House——

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr BEANLAND:** I will not make any comment on that. I will let that one slide by, as I have a very good memory about one of those particular matters.

This is a matter of major concern and importance to the Chamber, to the State as a whole and to the city in particular. It may be that the Opposition will oppose the legislation, because it is really the only way we can do this if we have problems with this particular clause. Because it is in the Schedule, it is not possible to go through and try to pick out that particular clause. Really, we will have to oppose the second reading if we are unhappy with this particular matter. That is the only matter that I can find that is of concern. I look forward to some indication from the Minister, the Leader of the House, who introduced this particular Bill, as to why the matter was not covered in a separate Bill but has been included in this legislation and the reasons for it. Only then can the Opposition make a considered decision on whether we should support the Bill or not, purely because of this matter.

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