



Speech by

**ANDREW McNAMARA**

**MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY**

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Hansard 17 September 2002

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr McNAMARA** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (5.45 p.m.): I rise to support the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2002. I congratulate the minister for his proactive approach to building partnerships with local government and the private sector to increase protection over vitally important environmental assets. The wide support for this bill from groups as diverse as the Australian Industry Group and the Queensland Conservation Council is testimony to the breadth and effectiveness of the community consultations carried out by the Department of Environment. This bill will cut red tape and streamline administrative processes to make it simpler for businesses up and down the length and breadth of Queensland to amend and transfer environmental licences and approvals. This improved flexibility is precisely the sort of responsible and sensitive amendment which is so welcome in the community.

This bill will allow businesses to apply for a transfer of all types of environmental authorities in one transaction. I am particularly pleased that no new charges or increased fees will result from the passing of this bill. The advantages of simplifying the licence transfer process would be largely offset if fees and charges rose as a result. I congratulate the minister on achieving this reform without having to impose extra costs on businesses. Indeed, I note the minister's comments in his second reading speech that the efficiencies generated by this bill will have a positive impact on employment in businesses which hold or transfer environmental authorities, which is of course welcome. I commend the bill to the House.