



Speech by

DIANNE REILLY

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Hansard 22 October 2002

ARCHITECTS BILL; PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS BILL

Mrs REILLY (Mudgeeraba—ALP) (3.35 p.m.): I am happy to rise in support of this legislation. In particular, I wish to confine my comments to the aspects of the bills that provide for membership of the proposed new board of architects and the board of professional engineers.

I note that each bill alters the composition of the relevant board. Currently, there are six members on each board, with three members nominated by the minister and appointed by the Governor in Council, one of whom is to be representative of a school of architecture or engineering. There is currently one member from the relevant professional association and two members elected by registered architects or professional engineers. I am pleased to note that under the bills the representation on each board has been broadened to include wider representation within relevant sectors of the community and persons with relevant expertise.

Representation on the boards will now include seven persons, with one academic representative, one professional association representative, one elected member, one lawyer with at least 10 years' experience in building and construction law, one person with at least 10 years' experience as a construction contractor, one person who is not a registered person and one professional person who lives and undertakes professional services predominantly in regional Queensland. This is a very important point because it includes and recognises the importance of regional Queensland and those areas.

I understand that the composition of the boards has been widened to include a broader community representation. I am most pleased that a professional member from a regional area of Queensland will serve on each board. It is particularly pleasing given that a significant number of architects and engineers practice outside the metropolitan area and indeed outside the south-east corner of the state. However, in the south-east corner of the state we are seeing rapid growth and continued development, so it is very important that there is a representative to put forward that region's views on that board.

This alteration to the structure of the board and the bills in general will serve to better protect the standards of architecture and engineering in Queensland. The bills provide a necessary update to legislation first introduced over 80 years ago. The bills reflect the Beattie government's commitment to protecting professional standards in these industries. They are supported by the peak industry bodies and therefore I am happy to commend the bills to the House.