



Speech by

CHRISTINE SMITH

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Hansard 29 April 2003

LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ROBINA CENTRAL PLANNING AGREEMENT] AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs SMITH (Burleigh—ALP) (3.37 p.m.): I am pleased to be able to support the Local Government (Robina Central Planning Agreement) Amendment Bill. My electorate of Burleigh includes part of Robina and I am well aware of how the development of Robina affects this community and the southern Gold Coast. Robina offers a great deal of opportunity for local people. It is the technological hub of the Gold Coast—perhaps even Queensland—and provides significant job prospects and opportunities for community life to many Gold Coast residents. Robina is significant in that it is a master planned community specially designed to be practical and aesthetically pleasing. The concept of a community planned on such a scale was a rarity to the extent that when it was first conceived this very act had to be developed in order to provide a proper legislative framework. The Integrated Planning Act which now covers such projects was not in existence and an act of parliament had to be passed to allow for the development.

This act provides a legal framework for the operation of the Robina Central Planning Agreement. The basis for this act is an agreement first reached between the key stakeholders in 1992. The act provides a development assessment framework for the Robina central planning area and is the principal document for planning and development, including the provision of infrastructure and other project commitments. The development of Robina Central has followed a master planning approach to the development of local and state infrastructure. This approach has enabled the developers, Robina Land Corporation and Robina Properties Pty Ltd, and the Gold Coast City Council to plan for basic infrastructure such as roads, drainage and water supply to coincide with orderly development of the area in logical sequence. It has also enabled the state government to plan for the provision of its infrastructure such as schools and state controlled roads in a much more efficient way than is normally possible where a number of different developers are involved.

Although the act remains true to its original spirit, it is occasionally necessary to update it in order to keep up with current developments. Substantial consultation has gone into these amendments and agreement has been reached with Robina Land Corporation, Robina Properties, the Queensland Investment Corporation and the Gold Coast City Council.

Recently there was consideration given to integrating the RCPA into the IPA legislative framework. This was deemed to be impractical. The overriding concern was that it was difficult to integrate without significantly affecting existing use rights and infrastructure. Due to the complexity and nature of the Robina Central planning agreement, it is preferable to preserve the effect of the Local Government (RCPA) Act until the majority of the proposed infrastructure is provided and land is developed at Robina.

I thank both Darrell Irwin and Tony Tippet from Robina Land Corporation for ensuring that I am kept up to date with changes affecting Robina. I am confident that these amendments will contribute substantially to the further development of Robina and I commend the bill to the House.