



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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HOUSING AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (7.58 pm): I am pleased to speak in the debate on the Housing and Other Acts Amendment Bill. In doing so, I give the minister the Liberal Party's support for this bill. Essentially, the Housing and Other Acts Amendment Bill brings about a smooth transition between the former housing acts and the Housing Act 2003 as well as amending those sections of the Housing Act that are incorrect or obsolete.

Some of the issues that are resolved as a result of this act are the regulation of organisations funded by the Department of Housing for housing services and improved transition of the State Housing Act 1945. This is very important and I have been on record many times saying that housing services are vitally important to a functioning society. To provide housing for those who need it, when they need it and in appropriate circumstances is essential. I will support any provision that will aid and abet this cause. More specifically, this will be done by giving the chief executive the opportunity to appoint an interim manager to funded housing services that are operated by local governments. Admittedly, this will be done only in limited circumstances. However, the mechanism is there and this improvement of the capabilities of the Department of Housing is important for the department to be able to deliver the services that are needed to be delivered in housing.

There are also important provisions in this bill empowering the chief executive to approve the sale of a house or land for a price less than the capital cost. This is the type of provision that must be watched closely as it can be open to use in a way not intended by the framers of this legislation. There are safeguards in section 113 that protect the intentions of the framers. However, the need to watch actions with respect to the power granted to the chief executive under section 113 is still vitally important. The bill also repeals the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement (Service Personnel) Act 1991. I find it interesting that an agreement that was finalised in 1993-94 is only being removed from legislation now. However, better late than never I suppose.

As I have said, this act has run its course dealing with the handover of defence housing to the state government and there is no need for the act anymore and so, as such, the act has been repealed. The bill also makes a range of other amendments, the vast majority of which significantly aid the ability of the department to fulfil its important role in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.