



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (4.38 pm): On behalf of the Liberal Party, I rise to support the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. So that answers the question that was raised by the honourable member for Mackay, who was wondering. As we said last year, the inevitable changes that would have to be made to this legislation are being made. I take the point of the member for Callide in his very passionate presentation and of other members of the Nationals, including the member for Lockyer, that there are many frustrated landowners whom this government needs to take into consideration.

As with all bills, from time to time changes need to be made. Specifically in relation to this bill, changes are being made to key areas of implementation. For example, after some misunderstanding over the role of the chief executive, this amendment bill clears up the provisions relating to the chief executive's jurisdiction. This relates in particular to the jurisdiction of the chief executive to make determinations about commercial timber on state land when the state owns that timber. Similarly, the bill clears up a number of transitional provisions in the act that relate to local government planning schemes and, as such, the Integrated Planning Act. The act also provides clarification to a number of provisions relating to watercourses that are owned by the state and the clearing of native vegetation in those watercourses.

This bill also seeks to amend the Integrated Planning Act to provide for two exemptions. The first is to make exempt the clearing of native vegetation for establishing a single residence and the other is to make exempt low-impact clearing in a watercourse or lake. All of these amendments are generally run-of-the-mill amendments that will always be required to be made in legislation of this nature.

This type of bill shows that no legislation is complete at the outset and without initial teething problems. From time to time we see ministers and other members stand up in this place and become precious about other members who anticipate that there may be teething problems with a particular piece of legislation. It is one of the great facets of a vibrant debate to make ministers aware of possible problems and members should be encouraged to continue this practice. I commend the bill to the House.