



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Tuesday, 18 May 2010

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (5.40 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is about delivering a relevant transport legislative framework for a modern Queensland. This bill responds to the contemporary challenges of population growth in respect of the delivery of public transport infrastructure. This bill also strengthens marine environment protections to further dissuade irresponsible and reckless behaviour on the part of marine vessel operators and owners. In addition, this bill introduces strong protections and mechanisms for the ownership structures of the Port of Brisbane, Abbot Point Coal Terminal and QRNational.

The amendments contained in the bill are good amendments that protect Queensland's interests and provide value to Queenslanders. This Queensland Labor government has a tremendously proud record of delivering infrastructure for Queensland. Most recently, this record was highlighted by the fact that the new Gateway Bridge, worth \$1.88 billion, has been completed ahead of time and under budget. Locally, the people of Morayfield state electorate are pleased to see additional car-parking facilities being installed at the Morayfield train station and the Burpengary train station. Those projects are concrete proof of this Labor government's commitment to infrastructure construction around Queensland for the benefit of Queenslanders.

In respect of this bill, I would like to speak particularly about the proposed amendments to the Transport Infrastructure Act and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act. These amendments will ensure the ongoing maintenance, safety and operational integrity of Queensland's transport infrastructure and the public transport network. These amendments are essential to the future of transport and public infrastructure planning and construction in Queensland. These amendments modernise our planning and construction legislative frameworks for a modern Queensland.

Specifically, this bill provides the chief executive of the Department of Transport and Main Roads with the power to give a written direction to stop, alter or not start works that the chief executive reasonably believes threaten or are likely to threaten the safety or operational integrity of transport infrastructure. Further, the chief executive will have the power to register an administrative notice on the title of a property regarding works that the chief executive believes may adversely impact on the safety or operational integrity of transport infrastructure. It is important to note that the registration of an administrative notice will not prevent particular works on land. Instead, this will enable the Department of Transport and Main Roads to work with landowners to ensure works do not adversely impact the operational integrity of transport infrastructure. These amendments are about ensuring public safety and the efficiency of the public transport network throughout Queensland and should be welcomed by all Queenslanders.

As a strong advocate for public transport services and public transport infrastructure, I am pleased that this bill contains amendments that support the delivery of a light rail system in South-East Queensland. The Gold Coast Rapid Transit light rail system may be some distance from the Morayfield state electorate, but nonetheless it will deliver a great service to the people who live on and visit the Gold Coast. This project will be delivered as a public-private partnership and will be the first light rail system in Queensland for some time.

The amendments set out in this bill are about providing a transport legislative framework for the future—a framework that protects the Queensland environment; a framework that allows public transport infrastructure to be planned and constructed in an effective way and responds to the contemporary challenges of a modern Queensland; and a framework that further facilitates the transformation of the Queensland of today to a productive, strong and proud Queensland of tomorrow. I commend the minister, her staff, the departmental staff and the Parliamentary Counsel on their work in respect of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.