



Speech by

**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

Hansard Thursday, 8 September 2011

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## **RIGHT TO INFORMATION (GOVERNMENT-RELATED ENTITIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction and Referral to the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Right to Information (Government-related Entities) Amendment Bill [\[5284\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Right to Information (Government-related Entities) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes [\[5285\]](#).

The Right to Information (Government-related Entities) Amendment Bill 2011 will restore transparency and accountability of government by ensuring public authorities, including any corporation supported directly or indirectly by government funds or other assistance or over which the state, a minister or a department is in a position to exercise control, is subject to the Right to Information Act 2009.

On 17 September 2007, the Queensland government appointed an independent expert panel to undertake a comprehensive review of the then Freedom of Information Act 1992. The Freedom of Information Independent Review Panel prepared the 'Enhancing Open and Accountable Government' discussion paper of which more than 60 organisations, including the Queensland government, and individuals made submissions. On 10 June 2008, the panel chair, Dr David Solomon AM, delivered the Right to Information report making over 140 recommendations that included extending the definition of 'public authority' in the act to include bodies established for a public purpose and ensuring that all bodies established or funded by the government or are carrying out functions on behalf of the government are covered by freedom of information.

The recommendations sought to extend the application of right to information to entities such as City North Infrastructure Pty Ltd, a company which was established to represent the state and communities of Queensland on major infrastructure projects such as the combined Airport Link, Northern Busway and airport roundabout upgrade. City North Infrastructure Pty Ltd has blocked numerous submissions for right to information due to its structure as a special purpose vehicle, which allows for it to act as a private company despite being a wholly owned Queensland government operation.

I seek leave to have the rest of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*. I have sought and received the approval of the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

The Kalinga Woolloowin Residents' Association has unsuccessfully made submissions for right to information in regards to:

- The application of the Environmental impact statement conditions;
- The ambiguity and lack of clarity in the Coordinator-General's Conditions and Project Deed in relation to work conditions and community impacts;

- Why 24/7 surface construction has been allowed to occur in Brisbane residential communities when construction of this type has never before been allowed to occur in Queensland or elsewhere in Australia; and
- The role of City North Infrastructure overseeing this project.

The Right to information (Government-Related Entities) Amendment Bill 2011 will restore transparency and accountability by extending the meaning of a public authority to include any corporation supported directly or indirectly by government funds or other assistance or over which the state, a minister or a department is in a position to exercise control.

In concluding, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and tireless efforts of the entire Kalinga Wooloowin Residents Association Committee, in particular the president, Brian Nally and secretary, Greg Davis.

### First Reading



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.50 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee.