



Speech by

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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QUEENSLAND INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION POLICY BILL

Mr RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (2.33 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Queensland Industry Participation Policy Bill. In the Caboolture region, people will often hear me repeating the mantra of local jobs for local people. It is an important message and a concept that I am committed to. Local jobs for local people means just that: by supporting and investing in opportunities for our local businesses, we are in turn supporting and creating job opportunities for local people in our communities. Ultimately, strong communities are those communities that continually invest in employment opportunities and enhance economic activity for local people and local businesses.

This bill formalises and enhances the government's local industry policy. This bill enshrines in law a basis for securing the principles of local business and local worker involvement in Queensland government funded procurement processes. This is a worthy next step to the government's proud record of delivering benefits to Queensland businesses and workers through its local industry policy.

It is important not to underestimate the benefits that flow from a focus on and a commitment to a local industry policy. Not only are we supporting local businesses and local jobs; we are also investing in the capacity of local businesses to further innovate and enhance their competitiveness. We are helping our local industries to transform themselves into internationally competitive businesses. This is good news not only for local jobs and local people; it is good news also for the Queensland taxpayer. It means that the Queensland taxpayer gets greater value for money whilst, at the same time, supporting local businesses and local jobs.

This bill enshrines in law a local industry policy for Queensland businesses. Moreover, the bill creates a legal requirement for the responsible minister to report to parliament on local industry policy outcomes, thereby enhancing probity and accountability for Queensland taxpayers in respect of government procurement.

During this debate we have heard some opposition members criticise the need for the bill. We have heard members of the opposition say that the bill is not necessary. However, they miss the critical point: this bill is necessary because it enshrines in law a very important policy about government procurement and a very important policy about support for local industry, probity and accountability requirements for Queensland taxpayers. This bill is necessary because it says that we as a government are serious about local industry, probity and accountability requirements in respect of government procurement.

The bill means that future governments will be bound by this government's focus on support for local businesses, local jobs and local people. It is important to note that we as a government are serious about support for local businesses, local jobs and local people. If those opposite want to trivialise this matter and question the need for the bill, maybe they really need to look at what they are serious about and whether or not they are serious about supporting Queensland businesses. At the end of the day, the ALP is the party of jobs, innovation and opportunity. The ALP is the only political party that is committed to local jobs for local people and to local businesses. To that extent, we have to question the opposition's commitment to that principle and to local business.

This bill is important. It says that we are serious about local industry, probity and accountability requirements. Further, it says that we are serious about the principle of local jobs for local people. I take this opportunity to congratulate the minister, her staff and the department for bringing this bill before the parliament. I commend the bill to the House and ask all members to support it.