




Speech by

Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Hansard Wednesday, 28 November 2012

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.22 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Economic Development Bill 2012. While the bill presented today is primarily a process bill, its aim is much larger than that. Its aim is to facilitate economic and community development within Queensland in good times and in times of disaster. I am proud to be part of a government that recognises economic development as a vitally important part of our state. Many of the processes in this bill will heavily support the regions and the four-pillar economy that we are so dedicated to building. The bill will equip us with the legislative tools necessary to identify and drive development projects that contribute to a strong and sustainable state economy.

Whilst there are many aspects covered in this bill, I feel compelled to talk about the benefits to local government, because I sat in this House and listened to the rot that was spoken by members on the other side of the House on this subject. The bill proposes to increase local government input into the planning and development of land within areas that have been declared priority development areas. The bill repeals the Urban Development Authority Act 2007, as that act did not explicitly allow for input by local governments. What a novel idea to have input by local governments! That is a fantastic idea of the Deputy Premier.

Our government empowers local governments and we listen to local governments. This bill will allow vital projects to get off the ground through the reduction of red tape. The bill also expands the role of local government in the planning and development of land in the priority development areas. The bill explicitly provides for consultation by the Minister for Economic Development Queensland with the relevant local government. This will ensure that local governments have a greater say in the planning and development of those areas within their communities. It allows for greater flexibility for the Minister for Economic Development Queensland to delegate powers and functions to a local government directly or to a local government representative committee that may have local government membership.

Councils have seriously welcomed the Economic Development Bill. In front of me I have a letter from the Redlands City Council that states—

Council commends the government for introducing this bill, which local government will see as a potential accelerant for stalled local projects.

It also states—

The proposed legislation will be particularly welcomed by councils that have battled for years to get major projects off the ground.

The bill is designed specifically to deliver and facilitate economic development by creating the MEDQ, which will have the ability to deal commercially with land, property and infrastructure, which will encourage economic development and development for community purposes. I commend the Deputy Premier for his contribution to this bill. I commend the bill to the House.