



Speech by

Ian Rickuss

MEMBER FOR LOCKYER

Hansard Wednesday, 11 July 2012

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (GREENTAPE REDUCTION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr RICKUSS (Lockyer—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise to say a few words as chair of the parliamentary committee that examined the bill. I congratulate the minister for finally getting this legislation to the House. I also congratulate the committee. I must admit that the member for South Brisbane is a vital cog in our committee. I congratulate the other members of the committee—the member for Thuringowa and the members for Whitsunday, Gympie and Maryborough. However, I must admit that I am a bit perplexed. I think the member for South Brisbane at times wears a Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde outfit: she is a bit like Dr Jekyll when she comes to see us.

Ms Trad: No—2011 and 2012; it's that simple!

Mr RICKUSS: What the member for South Brisbane highlighted when she was in discussions about the bill was the inability of the previous government to be able to do anything.

Mr Berry: To deliver.

Mr RICKUSS: To deliver; that is right. That is a great comment from the member for Ipswich. That is what has happened. It just could not deliver this bill. It has taken the new LNP government to deliver the bill in a timely manner and get things done. As was previously highlighted by the member for South Brisbane, there was a lot of discussion. Appropriate consultation had taken place. It was virtually a summary of this consultation so that we could bring the bill before the House. It was something that needed to be done. If you give someone a time line they actually get things done. We were given an appropriate time line and we worked extremely hard.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr RICKUSS: I would like to thank the ministerial staff and everyone who made submissions to the committee because that was an important part of the whole process. It gave us a greater understanding. That is how the process works. It highlights that the previous government did struggle to manage not only the economy but also the House because it could not get this legislation through. It procrastinated.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr RICKUSS: It was not interested in supporting businesses that were involved in this.

Mr Berry: We would have got it through in one day if we didn't have the member for South Brisbane's speech!

Mr RICKUSS: That's right. I will take that interjection, the one day interjection. It really is a shame that it has taken that long. This bill should have been passed 12 months ago. That was really what the member for South Brisbane was highlighting: that unfortunately her government let her down.

I congratulate the minister on picking up on the recommendations that the committee made. There was a fair bit of thought put into them. I would also like to thank Rob Hansen, Ali Jarro and the team of committee staff. They work extremely hard and assist the committee no end.

In relation to some of the things that have been highlighted, for example the 20 days, at times it is quite difficult to get a response back in 20 days, but the minister or his chief executive officer can extend that time. If members of parliament have issues in their area please go and see the minister about it because he can extend that application time. I went to see Stirling Hinchliffe in the previous government about an issue in relation to mining and had those timelines extended. It can be done. That is really what being a good MP is about. It is about using and understanding legislation and working with the government of either side. As the member for South Brisbane highlighted, this government is not afraid to take on good legislation and make it better. That is really what we have done here. We have taken legislation, improved it and got it through the House. That is really what it is all about.

The minister has advised that consultation with local government will continue to ensure a smooth transition. There is always going to be a bit of argy-bargy about whether the state government is shifting costs to the local government or vice versa. I think the \$800,000 BCC amount that was brought out might have been an exaggeration. It was a bit like the big fish. I think it was the top end of the spectrum to change their legislation considering that the Brisbane City Council will be affected. There will be some real benefits to be made with this legislation.

Ms Trad: Are you saying local government lies?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for South Brisbane will cease interjecting. Though it was not a direct comment towards an individual, I would just remind the member about unparliamentary language and the use of the word 'lies'.

Mr RICKUSS: Thank you for your protection. I have found it rather onerous to talk in here with all that interjecting going on. The committee did a great job in looking at this bill. The minister has done a great job in getting the bill before the House and taking on appropriate recommendations that have been made by the committee. I recommend this bill to the House.