




Speech by

Hon. Jeff Seeney

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Wednesday, 11 July 2012

SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 2): DISALLOWANCE

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.19 pm): The government will be supporting the disallowance motion moved by the member for Mansfield. In the short address that he gave to the parliament the member for Mansfield demonstrated an understanding of what this issue is about. I congratulate the member for Mansfield on the insight that he brought to what is a fairly basic planning issue. I commend the member for Mansfield for the comments he made about returning proper authority to local government because that is what this is about. It is about returning the authority to local government that the former Labor government totally ignored.

The contribution that was made by the member for Mansfield stands in stark contrast to the contribution that was made by the member for Mackay. If anybody in Queensland wants to understand why the former Labor government ended up in such a mess, why Queensland ended up in such a mess and why Queensland ended up with \$100 billion worth of debt, they only need to listen to the contribution that the member for Mackay made tonight. This man was a minister in the former government for a considerable period of time and yet he has no ability to understand the basic argument that the member for Mansfield put to this House tonight.

Not only did the member for Mackay not try to understand the issue; he came in here with a speech that was written by a junior geek down at ALP headquarters and read it without understanding it. He made no attempt to understand the speech and no attempt to understand the issue and came in here and sprouted nonsense gobbledegook. I say to the members who were not here for all those years that the member for Mackay and his ministerial colleagues did that day after day after day in this chamber. That is why the state is in such a mess, my honourable friend. You and your colleagues never thought about the nonsense that you came in here and repeated and you never understood the implications of it.

Let me go through the issues one at a time. For the benefit of the member for Mackay I will go through the issues one at a time, if he can remember what he actually read. He made some comment about public servants having to do more work because they now have to go through planning processes. Wrong. That is not what this disallowance will bring about. There is nothing in what the member for Mansfield said that would indicate that. There was nothing in this regulation that would indicate that. He is completely wrong. There is no basis for that nonsense. That is a complete misunderstanding of what the regulation does.

The member for Mackay talked about the BER projects suddenly costing more or being more difficult. Wrong. They are not affected by the regulation. That has nothing to do with it. It is completely irrelevant nonsense, like the irrelevant nonsense that the member and his colleagues sprouted in here year after year after year as the state went further and further into debt and we ended up with that shameful legacy that the member for Mackay and his colleagues will live with for the rest of their days and that generations of Queenslanders will struggle to repay because of the incompetence that we saw demonstrated again tonight.

This has nothing to do with the BER program. It has nothing to do with delivering the buildings that are necessary for year 7 to move into high school. It is all about returning a level of control to local governments—recognising the autonomy of local governments and returning a level of control to those duly elected local governments. If honourable members followed the logic that somebody wrote into the speech for the member for Mackay to read to its obvious conclusion, we would not have a planning scheme at all. We would not have planning applications for anything. We would not have any planning schemes, no control for councils.

Mr Crisafulli: That's how they plan.

Mr SEENEY: Exactly. That is how they plan. I take the interjection from the minister. That is how the former Labor government planned. They had no planning. They had no control. It was just what was convenient on the day. It was just what they could fit into their allocated time in this House. They would read nonsense that they did not understand.

This is a sensible reversal of an action that was taken by the previous government that they did not understand. They did not understand the consequences of it. They did not know what it was going to do. They did not know the effect that it would have in local communities. Of course, we are going to reverse it. Over a period of time we will reverse a lot of other similar decisions that were taken by the inept member for Mackay and his inept colleagues who sat around the cabinet table for so long.

The disallowance motion that has been moved tonight is just one small step in returning to local government the recognition that they should have—the ability that they should have to control their communities. It is relevant to remember that this was introduced without any consultation—no consultation at all. I heard the Minister for Local Government in an earlier debate tonight talk about consultation being like a blunt brick, I think he said.

The Minister for Local Government knows full well the level of consultation with local government in those days by a government that did not care about local government. They did not understand the role of local government. But worse than that, they did not care about the decisions that they made in this place. They did not even care or think about the effects of their decisions. They did not try to understand, just as the member for Mackay did not try to understand what the member for Mansfield said tonight and did not try to understand the nonsense that was written for him that he was sent in here to regurgitate. It was an absolutely shameful performance. This House should support the member for Mansfield and support this disallowance motion.