




Speech by

Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.15 pm): My contribution will be far more modest than that of the member for Chatsworth which was very informative and well said. This bill is about building economic development in our great state of Queensland. It is about firmly placing Queensland as the state envied by all others. For too long our state has been focused on one section of our economy, a legacy left by the previous government. This new legislation is not about blame, it is about getting on with the job. Current economic conditions across the globe are precarious at best. We are continually buffeted by concerning economic news from around the world. No longer can governments afford to sit back and hope economic issues will automatically sort themselves out. These head-in-the-sand philosophies have crippled many a great nation and placed additional burden on taxpayers. Sound economic policy which creates economic development can no longer be ignored. Planning for tomorrow takes planning today.

The Economic Development Bill is a proactive approach to remove the Industrial Development Act 1963 and the Urban Land Development Authority Act 2007. The functions of these two separate acts will be integrated into the auspices of the new Minister for Economic Development Queensland, or MEDQ. This will create improved operational efficiencies and facilitate bringing development to the market.

The first thing that comes to mind when I think of South Bank is Expo 88. It was famous across our great state. South Bank formed as a direct result of Expo 88, which certainly put Queensland well and truly on the map and made Brisbane an international city. I can still remember when Expo 88 first came to Brisbane. It was certainly a very exciting time in my youth. This bill amends the South Bank Corporation Act 1989 to transfer statutory planning to the Brisbane City Council. The bill also protects any existing approvals and also allows the transfer of interest in freehold land with the minister's consent. This will help the South Bank Corporation reduce debt by the sale of commercial premises.

The bill includes the establishment of the Commonwealth Games Infrastructure Authority. This authority will report to the Minister for Economic Development Queensland and the MEDQ will assist the authority in relation to planning and development of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, something we are excited about in my electorate of Albert because, fingers crossed, we will have a couple of events held in the local Oxenford area.

This bill also amends the Disaster Management Act 2003. I am a very proud member of the State Emergency Service and I am deeply proud of the achievements of the State Emergency Service. For eight years I have been a member of this truly great organisation, an organisation that has touched so many lives throughout our great state. Before I talk about the amendments, I just want to say thank you to the Logan and Gold Coast SES units which fall within my electorate. Your service to the community will not be forgotten and everyone in this parliament and throughout Queensland certainly owes you a debt of gratitude.

The amendments to the Disaster Management Act 2003 focus on the FCol report recommendation that the Disaster Management Authority be amended to give the chief executive of the Department of Community Safety the ability to appoint an EMQ officer to be an SES coordinator. The SES coordinator will be able to direct SES operations in the event of extraordinary circumstances, thus providing command and control arrangements above a local controller. A crucial aspect of this bill is to allow local disaster

coordinators for disaster management within local government areas the ability to coordinate large scale activations whilst utilising their local knowledge. No-one knows a local area like the local disaster coordinator. They know the area, they know the landscape and they are on the front line. They know the resources that are in that area. It is plain logic to do that.

Mr Crandon: Sorry, did I put you off there?

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, you did, Mr Crandon. I thank the Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney, and the assistant minister, Ian Walker, for this fantastic piece of legislation. This bill will be good for the electorate of Albert in respect of the Commonwealth Games. It will help to build a lot of economic development throughout the area. With the storm season upon us, the new legislation will be beneficial as in this area we are susceptible to supercells. The legislation will go a long way to coordinating local SES activities. I commend the bill to the House.