Speech by

Michael Pucci

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr PUCCI (Logan—LNP) (9.33 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. Our government is committed to establishing an effective and efficient planning development system in our state—one that will create the ability for local government and industry to better execute their roles and provide feedback through a number of concepts that have not achieved their maximum effectiveness. Our state is growing. Logan is expected to expand by up to hundreds of thousands of people over the next 20 years. To facilitate that growth in areas such as Logan Village, Greater Flagstone, Yarrabilba, Greenbank and Park Ridge, we need to have the mechanisms in place to ensure that sustainable planning for the long term can be achieved. That will require a variety of measures that will reduce red tape by cutting the bureaucratic network and creating stronger mechanisms for the state government, local governments and industry to achieve their desired outcomes.

Queensland needs measures such as those that are contained in this bill, such as improving coordination and responsiveness with state government departments when dealing with development applications, removing the ineffective practices in master-planning and structure-planning arrangements, reducing regulatory red tape for applications involving a state resource and enabling the flexibility for supporting information accompanying a development application. These measures will also ensure that certain provisions will also apply to local government planning schemes and have a significant impact on the Planning and Environment Court in its discretion regarding costs and the introduction of an alternative resolution in dealing with minor disputes.

This bill addresses a system that is not working. This system is an example of yet another failing of the former Labor government. Its inept approach towards sustainable planning limited Queensland communities from expanding and meeting the needs of our evolving society. We are growing and we need the means and legislation to support this growth. After 20 years of Labor's culture of a quick fix and short-sighted schemes, this bill will enable Queensland to get out from behind the eight ball and plan for the future.

This government has been given overwhelming support to not only get our state back on track in the wake of the bad old days of Labor but also build a strong, well-developed and practical future. We are about the long game. We are about finishing the job and this bill enables us to do that. This bill will achieve objectives that will benefit our communities on an economic, social and environmental level by efficiently regulating land development. We are committed to reforming the current failing system. We are committed to simplifying and streamlining the process. It is just good business practice—something that those in opposition struggle to comprehend.

This bill also provides the chief executive with the necessary weight to deal with relevant matters when responding to or deciding applications. The chief executive, with the responsibility as the single state assessment manager, now has the ability to assess applications from a state perspective, therefore resolving any conflicts between codes and policies, ensuring conditions on an approval are reasonable and relevant to the proposal. The single state assessment and referral agency provisions, when

commenced, will allow time to confirm administrative and operational matters and consider the possible impacts of various other reforms to the planning and development system at a future date. It is the objective of the bill that, once operational, the single state assessment and referral agency will be a central point of state referral and response, thus removing the role of the referral agency and assessment manager. This streamlining is a yet another tribute to the pragmatic approach that this government is taking in addressing the bureaucratic disaster that was left behind from the bad old days of the former Labor government.

The current arrangements under the Sustainable Act 2009 have failed to add value to the partnership arrangements in place. Although this bill removes these ineffective provisions, it preserves the use and development rights established by the existing structure. With these further legislative amendments, we are able to achieve strategic guidance at the regional level. Regional development is the beating heart of our state. Like development in all regions, we must support this growth. Our government is doing that. This is something that fell by the wayside by those now in opposition.

This bill will also allow local governments to implement an effective usage of land and infrastructure strategically when planning schemes within their boundaries. Through these integrated steps and a strong partnership with industry, a coordinated approach to assessments in key areas will see an effective use of the legislation. A series of temporary provisional strategies will also be implemented, allowing for local governments to amend their local planning instrument within three years to incorporate the structure plan. The bill removes the master plan provisions, but preserves existing applications and approvals and provides better regulatory provisions with notifications for applications with the structure plan.

All of the applications that I have referred to are about laying the foundation for a more viable and administratively efficient approach to sustainable planning for our state. As I have said before, this bill is as much about sustainable planning for today as it is about planning for the needs of our state in the years to come. I am proud to support this bill, as it will provide reasonable, sound and pragmatic legislation for the development of our great state. I commend this bill to the House.