



Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Hansard Wednesday, 15 February 2012

SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak to the objectives of the amendments to the Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The amendments to the commencement arrangement for the bill are required to facilitate concurrent commencement of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, particularly provisions of the Building Act 1995, to allow adequate timing for the development of subordinate legislation under the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 and to improve stakeholder awareness for the new requirements.

Planning is a very important factor in the development of the Dalrymple electorate, particularly for mining communities. Moranbah is an example of where we have seen a massive expansion in the mining industry, and it has come to the point where the foundations of those towns cannot contain the movement that has taken place. Unfortunately we have not been able to keep pace with providing support, services, accommodation, facilities, water infrastructure, development and, most importantly, affordable housing. When we look at sustainability and planning for regions like that, we see that there is not enough money injected into them. When we look at the royalties that come out of those regions—the amount of revenue that they generate—I believe that those communities have been neglected.

Going back five years, we saw a proposed 350-lot development by Nevtan Investments. It was proposed to resolve the housing issues in Moranbah, but it was called in by the government on the grounds that it impacted on an area of a mining lease—which was not the case. It would have resolved some of the issues in relation to what is going on in Moranbah. We are losing families. Only recently the school advised that 67 families from their school have deserted. They have got up and left. They have moved to Mackay, the Whitsundays and other areas. All the businesses are closing. It is a catastrophe. It was disappointing that the Minister for Local Government ignored Moranbah when the government announced the 43,000 new houses which will be built in Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday area on 8,000 hectares of land to be released by the state government. But that did not include Moranbah.

Mr Lucas: But there is no more land left.

Mr KNUTH: There is land left. They can build accommodation for thousands in the MAC camps. The council also has a 70-hectare development that has not one single house on it at Grosvenor Downs, south of Moranbah. There are sites where we see plenty of MAC camps going up but we are not seeing houses being built.

Mr Lucas: That is because they are temporary. Would you like to have your house built on a mining lease?

Mr KNUTH: It is not temporary, Minister. This is a problem that has been going on for a long time. It could have been resolved a long time ago. Now the government is saying, 'Oh well, it is too late.' We want to ensure that these towns are liveable, that accommodation is affordable and that services are accessible.

Sustainable planning is a very important issue. Yesterday I tabled a petition on behalf of Tablelands residents—and this will concern the minister—in relation to prime agricultural land in the iconic golden triangle. An application to the Tablelands Regional Council for a housing development at 50 Tinaroo Falls Dam Road, Kairi, has been given the green light by the council. It is good farming land and it must be preserved to protect future farming production on the Atherton Tablelands. This development—and I want to bring it to the minister's attention—has the potential to conflict with the adjoining aerodrome and everyday activities of local farming communities. There are water and drainage issues which also have the potential to impact adversely on adjoining land.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): Order! Member for Dalrymple, I am having great difficulty relating some of what you are speaking about to the bill.

Mr KNUTH: This is about the Sustainable Planning Act. We have a development that has been agreed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, but what you are talking about has no relevance—

Mr KNUTH: What we are asking for is for the minister to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Dalrymple, please do not talk over me.

Mr KNUTH: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you please come back to the provisions of the bill.

Mr KNUTH: I tabled that petition and would like the minister to call in that development.