




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

HOUSING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.35 pm): I rise to support the Housing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which aims to help establish a consistent regulatory environment to support the growth and development of the not-for-profit community housing sector. In my role as Assistant Minister for Regulatory Reform, it is important to note that this bill goes a long way towards the Newman government's plan to reduce red tape and regulation. Community housing providers are stuck with excessive red tape. The implementation of the national regulatory system for community housing will provide relief and a reduction of red tape and will build a national presence in this space. Of most importance are the problems relating to cross-border operations for those larger organisations that are stuck with the various regulatory requirements of all of the different jurisdictions. Therefore, this bill will allow these companies to focus on increased delivery and service and reduce the onerous administration and red tape that they face. The national approach also means that providers can be confident that regulatory decisions are consistent across the borders and the states and that the registrars are accountable to the public and to the industry more broadly. There is more transparency in this new approach and an open and accountable government is one of this government's key policy positions.

Queensland's largest providers will see the benefits of operating within a national industry framework that supports them to expand their existing boundaries, providing increased access for private finance and reduced compliance costs for cross-border providers. Smaller providers have not been forgotten in the reduction of red tape for their business. They will have increased visibility and enhanced reputation for the sector. In particular, organisations funded under the act that only deliver ancillary services such as crisis accommodation will no longer need to obtain registration. I understand that about 100 community organisations that are currently registered under the Housing Act 2003 will no longer be required to register and that approximately 220 organisations that will be part of the NRS will have the number of regulations applying to them reduced by half. This goes a long way towards reducing red tape and regulation as promised.

In relation to the reduction of red tape and regulation, I want to touch on how this bill provides for amendments to the Building Act 1975 and the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002. This goes a long way towards not only saving money for small businesses and all businesses but is a red-tape reduction initiative that relates to relocatable buildings. It addresses the issues within licensing renewals for building certifiers and pool safety inspectors. It also facilitates the introduction of a modifiable work scheme which will simplify the approval process for most plumbing workers. To give a practical example, it extends the time frame for workers who are involved in the demolition and removal and rebuilding of these buildings. It will save these people some \$500 by extending the time period from six to 12 months and after that they can then apply for a further six-month extension. In the past they would have had to pay a \$500 fee. That has now been wiped if they do it within that time frame. There is also a saving for businesses seeking plumbing approvals for routine work. In the past, that would have cost \$1,000 and a wait of up to 28 days for those approvals.

This bill goes a long way towards achieving the Newman government's plan to reduce regulation and to deliver on its promise to cut onerous red tape by 20 per cent. This bill is all about changing the culture of government—from one that promotes red tape to one that actively reduces it. Under the previous Labor government, red tape was allowed to grow, stifling all sorts of businesses—not just small businesses but large businesses as well. It also stifled business development and investment.

Not-for-profits in the community have long been calling on governments to improve the processes and to reduce the stock of existing regulation. The Newman government has already implemented or is currently implementing more than 300 individual red-tape reduction initiatives across government. This bill is another bill that has been put before this House that will go towards reducing red tape and regulation. I commend this bill to the House.