




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

TREASURY AND TRADE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to support the Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I, along with all the other speakers here today, thank the Treasurer for his hard work and the government's ongoing commitment to reducing red tape and regulation by 20 per cent. This bill repeals some eight acts, so it is a fantastic opportunity for us to get some of this legislation sorted out.

As the name of this bill suggests, it is a miscellaneous amendment bill which seeks to deal with a variety of matters. One of those involves the implementation of outcomes from a review of Queensland laws administered by Queensland Treasury and Trade which identified various acts or parts of acts that had either achieved their purpose or were no longer required. As examples, the bill will repeal various acts including the Anzac Square Development Project Act 1972, the Energy Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Act 2006 and various government stock, loan redemption and loan acts.

While these acts have achieved their purpose and/or are no longer required, it is nevertheless important to remember that what has been authorised and undertaken under those acts will not be affected by the repeal of those acts. I raise this point because this was of some interest to the Finance and Administration Committee during its public hearings on the bill. In this regard, Queensland Treasury and Trade has confirmed that section 20(2)(c) of the Acts Interpretation Act 2006 will operate to ensure that any rights, privileges or liabilities incurred under an act are not affected by the repeal of the act.

Queenslanders will remember how Labor was always talking about cutting red tape and regulation, although I do not think they talked about it as much as our government does. However, the reality is that red tape was allowed to grow out of control, stifling business development and investment in our state. Unlike those opposite, the Newman government does what it says and is getting on with the job of reducing red tape. I am pleased to advise that the Newman government is making significant inroads in this regard. Notably, we have now progressed more than 440 specific red-tape reduction initiatives, with more than 250 of these reforms fully implemented. The government also recently took another important step in its regulatory reform agenda with the release of its response to the Office of Best Practice Regulation's final report on a framework for measuring and reducing the burden of regulation.

In addition to reducing red tape by repealing various acts, I note that the bill contains a number of technical amendments to other acts that are designed to either clarify existing uncertainties, streamline the practical operation of laws or minimise costs of interested parties and the state. That is what we are talking about when we are constantly talking about reducing red tape and regulation: we are trying to make life easier.

Like the speaker previously to me indicated, many speakers to this bill have talked about the technical aspects of the bill, so it is not essential that I go on much further. I would like to just quickly comment on the proposed amendments to the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997. The bill proposes to amend that act so that ministerial responsibility under the act will lie with one minister

rather than two ministers. This is consistent with similar legislation in other jurisdictions and will streamline ministerial decision-making processes under the act. Having a single minister responsible for the QCA Act will streamline the administrative and decision-making processes under the act and reduce unnecessary duplication of ministerial functions. This change will not alter what can be referred to the QCA or affect any of the decision-making criteria or consultation requirements for the minister under the various processes under the act. The change in ministerial responsibility will also not affect the validity of any of the existing declarations, decisions or directions that have previously been made under that act.

Not only does this bill tidy up the Queensland statute books by repealing acts that have achieved their purpose and are no longer required, it also reflects red-tape reduction initiatives by this government through the streamlining of decision-making and information-gathering processes as summarised by the proposed amendments to the acts as just described. I commend the Treasurer for the work that he has done in this space and commend the bill to the House.