




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 in respect of the amendments to the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and in particular the amendments that support the single expression of the government's policy intent on all matters of state interest in planning.

The government has made some significant reforms in planning and development systems so that the development industry can grow and flourish. Late last year the government announced that it would replace the existing collection of state planning policies, SPPs, with a single SPP. The SPP has effect throughout the state. The function of the SPP is to set out state interests and related policies that local governments must take into account when preparing or amending their planning instruments, such as planning schemes. It also prescribes the development assessment requirements for certain applications.

By expressing state interests in a complete and comprehensive manner, it will be easier for local governments to reflect and balance state interests upfront in planning instruments. This aids in the approval of the right development in the right location without undue process and delays. The function of a regional plan is to provide strategic direction and policies to deliver regional outcomes which align with the state interests in planning and development. They are legislative instruments that guide land use planning and development and guide local planning instruments such as planning schemes. Both the SPP and regional plans are documents prepared by the state. As new regional plans are prepared, they will be consistent with the SPP. The purpose of the amendment is to provide clarity around which instrument takes precedence where there is any inconsistency between the SPP and an existing or new regional plan. The proposed amendment reverses the current relationship between SPPs and regional plans so that the SPP will prevail over regional plans to the extent of any inconsistency. The regional plan will prevail over local government planning schemes also where there is any inconsistency. The amendments establish a clear and logical hierarchy of planning instruments and support the government's commitment to drive economic development in Queensland. I am very pleased to speak in support of this bill.