




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Tablelands Regional Council, Draft Planning Scheme

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.43 pm): I wish to raise the issue of the anxiety created in the Tablelands community by the overlays contained in the recently released Tablelands Regional Council draft planning scheme. I acknowledge the efforts of the government to address inconsistencies and the unnecessary regulatory burden left by the former government. However, a meeting yesterday in my electorate hosted by AgForce and attended by the member for Barron River demonstrated that the fundamental issue of property rights is the issue that is being avoided by industry representative groups and the government.

The erosion of property rights and the autonomy of local governments has occurred over decades and comes from many influencing factors. But the most influential is the invasive and destructive agenda of extreme environmentalists to stop development and shut down the agricultural industry in the area. The amendments to the planning laws last year failed to address the imposition on the rights of landowners caused by the 2031 regional plan. Unless this plan is revoked in its entirety, local governments will be restricted in how they plan for the future of their communities and landowners are restricted in how they plan for their families. Land that has been earmarked by owners as part of their superannuation plan or to provide financial security for their children has been effectively stolen by the government through planning regulations. Property owners are forced to pay rates on land for which they are merely managers.

The 2031 regional plan was the greatest attack on property rights in the history of Queensland. The criteria was oppressive and the terms of reference were drawn up by the conservation movement that is determined to shut down growth by closing our agricultural industry and stopping urban development in regional areas. By far the greatest concern raised by the community is the biodiversity overlays, which are a continuation of planning regulations based on the assumptions contained in the 2031 regional plan.

The environmental ideology contained in the biodiversity regulations not only are an impost on land ownership rights but also are inconsistent and result in poor planning mechanisms, which restrict growth and threaten food production. Areas that need to be protected are left open for development and land that should be developed is locked up because of inaccurate data and a lack of consultation with local communities when mapping areas. The need for planning and development regulation is obvious. Nobody is saying to throw out all the planning and allow completely unregulated development. The landowners are asking for flexible, locally managed planning schemes that are developed in close consultation with the community.

Most landowners are interested in conserving the natural beauty and biodiversity of their land without the big environmental stick of the government coercing them into restrictive covenant arrangements every time they need to build a shed. If the government is serious about workable planning laws guiding regional growth, autonomous local government and doubling food production, then it will throw out the draconian 2031 plan and return planning decisions to local councils.