



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.17 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. I would like to thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the Hon. Scott Emerson, for bringing such a common-sense bill before the House. I also note that the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee recommended that this bill be passed without any further recommendations. This bill makes a raft of changes to the current legislation. Overall, its intent is to support the delivery of infrastructure projects, improve departmental processes, reduce red tape and clarify existing requirements. What fantastic, good, common-sense legislation that is being brought before the House.

This is what our government is all about. It is about making it easier to do business in Queensland and making it easier for everyday people to just get on with what they do. Although there are so many excellent amendments in this bill, time precludes me from speaking to them all. I want to highlight a couple of amendments. The first amendment that I want to speak to might appear like a simple change. It is one that the previous speaker just spoke about. It will have a real impact on the people in my electorate—and, indeed, anyone who lives in a regional area. Currently, the legislation says that the department must send formal notices to your residential address, not a postal address. Thankfully, common sense has come into this legislation. That just simply is not possible for people who live in areas such as my electorate who rely on postboxes for their mail delivery as they do not have a postal service to their street address or their rural address.

In the last couple of months an example of something that happened in the electorate of Nanango has been brought to my attention. I was so pleased to be able to ring up my constituents and tell them that our common-sense government had made this change. I was contacted by a couple from Moore, which is a small township a couple of hours from Brisbane on the D'Aguilar Highway. Moore has no postal service. There are people who live in Moore but, as the previous speaker said, Australia Post has decided not to service that area. They have no postman who delivers the mail to their homes.

A government member: They are not alone.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is exactly right: they are not alone. The townsfolk rely on the generous nature of the local store that takes delivery of that mail. However, some of my constituents have chosen to keep a postbox in Kilcoy, which is about half an hour up the road, to ensure that the mail is received on time and they get it regularly. They may work in Kilcoy. In this instance, the couple I mentioned did not receive an important infringement notice from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. They just did not receive it. They chose to go to court to fight the charge as it involved a professional truck driver who prides himself on following the rules. The notice, however, had never arrived and they then missed their day in court. This has caused my constituents a great deal of stress and anxiety and has cost them time and money. They do not understand why this important piece of mail never arrived. While we will never know why it never arrived, it would have been better

in the first place if the notice had been sent to a postbox in Kilcoy which they check each and every day. I am sure that this story could be shared across many rural and regional areas where people who are used to collecting their mail from a postal service rather than from their letterbox may have missed important mail from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. This legislation will go a long way to ensuring this type of scenario does not happen again and constituents like mine from the great township of Moore will receive their important Department of Transport and Main Roads mail.

The second amendment that I briefly want to touch on is the reduction of red tape when it comes to checking the status of a driver's licence. This is a common-sense change. Every day around Queensland there are business owners who need to check the status of a licence of an employee or potential employee so that they can allow them to drive for their business. Trucking companies, delivery companies and bus companies entrust their vehicles, in which they invest a huge amount of capital and money, to their employees and want to ensure that this piece of very important equipment is being looked after by their employees. These transport companies—and there are some fantastic local transport companies that I could talk about, like Seiler's—have a responsibility not only to ensure a safe workplace for their drivers but also to improve safety for all road users. The roads in my electorate are very long. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads in our hardworking government has spent more money on roadworks in my electorate in the last two years than has been spent in the last 10. That is one of the most amazing statistics that I find phenomenal. The improvement in the roads in the Nanango electorate are there to be seen. We are currently working on delivering three overtaking lanes. I am extremely proud to have already delivered one overtaking lane. That will be four overtaking lanes in this term if they are all completed.

This common-sense legislation will make it easier for our trucking companies as well as make it safer for people on our roads. It introduces an easy to use online service that will allow anyone, including owners of hardworking trucking companies, car hire companies and individuals, to check the status of a licence. This online service will require the person verifying the licence to obtain the licence holder details, including name, date of birth and licence number. This is practical information that potential employees would automatically have to give to their employer. I think that this is a fantastic amendment to the legislation.

In the short time that I have left I want to congratulate the minister and his hardworking assistant minister, the member for Chatsworth, Steve Minnikin, for the work they have put into this bill. From 1 October we will not have a registration sticker on our cars and the automatic recognition camera system will come into operation. This is common-sense legislation. When I was a candidate one of the first phone calls I took was from a gentleman who said to me, 'Why do we have rego stickers on cars?' This is a question that I put to the transport minister in my first couple of months, and the transport minister listened. Many people had said it to the transport minister. This is just common sense. Let us get into the new world. From 1 October there will be no registration stickers. It seems trivial to say it, but this is another bit of red tape that I am quite sure our transport companies will be pleased about as they will not have to take the time to put registration stickers on their vehicles. This legislation will help the constituents of the Nanango electorate, as well as everyone across our great state of Queensland. This is a hardworking government. I am pleased to stand here in the House and support such good, common-sense legislation.