




Speech By

Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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PAYROLL TAX REBATE, REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (5.39 pm): It is a pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. Yesterday was the 100th anniversary of the swearing in of the TJ Ryan Labor government—a great Labor government which fought for workers' rights, social justice and economic development. In the tradition of the TJ Ryan Labor government, I am very happy to support this bill because, in TJ Ryan's tradition—a man who had to fight years of Tory rule in Queensland and to clean up the mess left by a conservative government—I, too, am pleased that we have the opportunity today to clean up the mess left by three years of conservative government rule in Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr RYAN: It is good to hear the member for Nanango pipe up. Given that we are talking about leaks and plumbing, I note recent leaks reported on Crikey on 27 May which said in respect of the member for Nanango being considered a possible Deputy Leader of the Opposition that the member for Nanango is overplaying her hand if she thinks the party will call on her to fulfil the deputy's role. Given that we are talking about leaks, perhaps the opposition needs some licensed plumbers to stop those leaks.

Mr CRANDON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Pause the clock. Member, take your seat.

Mr CRANDON: I ask you to rule on relevance in relation to the speech that we are hearing from the member for Morayfield.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Please remain relevant to the long title of the bill, member for Morayfield.

Mr RYAN: I am speaking about licensed plumbers and licensed plumbers might be useful in the opposition offices over the next couple of weeks to stop the leaks. With respect to licensed plumbers, I am very pleased to see some of the restoration contained in the amendments in this bill in respect of licensed plumbers. We are talking about a licenced trade—like electricians, like lawyers, like financial planners, like doctors—when it comes to licensed plumbers. The amendments in this bill restore some sensibility when it comes to ensuring that that essential work that is done in our neighbourhoods and that is done on our footpaths is done by licensed people. These are people who the World Health Organization says are the front line in the fight for clean water and effective sanitation. They are the front line in that they ensure that all of that essential infrastructure is connected appropriately and properly. In the Moreton Bay region there have been a number of instances that demonstrate the importance of needing licensed plumbers. For years irregular plumbing work has been carried out by unlicensed plumbers when it comes to the water supply network in the Moreton Bay region. For instance, we see downpipes connected to sewerage mains. We see the integrity of the purple pipe reticulated recycled water network in the Caboolture area being undermined. Without those licensed plumbers keeping their eyes on that essential infrastructure network that—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr RYAN: We are seeing the importance of having licensed plumbers in that area to ensure the integrity of that network is maintained, and that is why the essential plumbing work that is the consideration of this bill needs to be carried out by licensed plumbers. They understand the work, they understand the network, they train for years to do it and it is important that they ensure the integrity of that network is maintained and that where irregular work has been done it is quickly identified and rectified. As the World Health Organization says, plumbers are the front line when it comes to the supply of clean water and effective sanitation. Of course, the Master Plumbers' Association also emphasises the importance of having licensed plumbers performing that very essential infrastructure work in our communities.

In the tradition of TJ Ryan and his commitment to economic development, I also see economic development being a key priority in this bill, particularly the efficiencies that may be associated with the amendments relating to electronic conveyancing amendments.

Mr Rickuss: Was he your great-grandfather or something?

Mr RYAN: No. Some people say that there is a bit of a family resemblance when it comes to TJ Ryan and myself, but my moustache-growing capabilities are nowhere near the moustache-growing capabilities of TJ Ryan, as members of this House may remember from many years ago.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, please direct your comments through the chair.

Mr RYAN: In the tradition of economic development, I note that the electronic conveyancing amendments contained in this bill will create some additional efficiencies and will reduce errors. In fact, I remember my very early days as a law graduate with the firm then known as Allens Arthur Robinson and me being asked by my supervising partner, who was then the staff partner of the Brisbane office, Alf Pappalardo, to do a conveyance for his property. Of course, being a young law graduate being asked by a very senior commercial partner in a very big national law firm, you get a bit nervous about doing the conveyance for your boss, so anything to help reduce errors and create efficiencies in the conveyancing—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr RYAN: It was a very nice block in the western suburbs. In fact, he was very happy with the work of that law graduate. If Alfio is out there listening, I do remember that first experience with conveyancing in Queensland. The point is that these amendments will create some efficiencies and they will reduce errors and those young law graduates who are doing work for senior commercial partners in national law firms will breathe a sigh of relief. The other people who may breathe a sigh of relief as well are the clients of those practitioners because hopefully through those efficiencies and hopefully through reducing those errors and by embracing that technology we will in turn produce some results where there is greater client satisfaction and hopefully greater value and more competitive pricing for clients. So I welcome those amendments associated with electronic conveyancing.

I quickly want to touch on the payroll rebate for apprentices. Today we have heard members of the opposition throw around a lot of numbers during this debate on the proposed amendments for the payroll rebate for apprentices. I guess I would like to quote some numbers as well. A number which we often heard during the last election campaign was 32,000, and that was the number of fewer apprentices over the period of the Newman government—32,000 fewer apprentices in Queensland over the period of the Newman government. Another number is the number zero, and that is the rebate that the former Newman government provided to employers to incentivise them to employ apprentices. There is also another number and that is 100 per cent, because that is the perception of how many Queenslanders the former government did not listen to when it came to stimulating the economy and creating additional employment opportunities for apprentices. These proposed amendments, which will reintroduce the former Labor government's 25 per cent payroll tax rebate on wages for apprentices and trainees, will create additional incentives for employers to employ apprentices and trainees, and it is much needed. After three long years of limited opportunity for apprentices and trainees under the former Newman government, my community will welcome those additional incentives for businesses. There are many young people in my community who have struggled to find apprenticeship opportunities who will welcome these amendments and who will be encouraged by the incentives that will be provided to employers offering those opportunities. This is good legislation which, in the tradition of TJ Ryan 100 years ago, creates economic development opportunities, enhances workers' rights and protects those issues associated with social justice. I am very pleased to support the bill and I encourage all members of the House to do the same.