




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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BUILDING QUEENSLAND BILL

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (7.56 pm): I rise to speak to the Building Queensland Bill 2015. Labor in government builds things. It is just what we do. From Suncorp Stadium to the Gateway duplication, we build things. That is why this bill is so exciting. It is the fulfilment, yet again, of another election commitment.

Infrastructure is important for two reasons. First, in a growing state like ours we need to make sure that we are providing the services and facilities for our people into the future. This means roads, hospitals, schools and, yes, even things like stadiums. Second, it provides employment in construction and associated industries. During the global financial crisis infrastructure spending was a key way that the Bligh government protected Queensland from the worst effects of that global shock to the financial system.

This bill does a few things. Very importantly, it provides independent expert advice to government about infrastructure in Queensland and develops a robust and transparent framework for assessing infrastructure projects. Infrastructure should be above political pork-barrelling—the kind we saw in January when things were looking so dire for those opposite. One thing we on this side can say is that we have set a new trend for a focus on the public good for outcomes for infrastructure and moved beyond political favours. Just look at the number of projects being delivered in non-government electorates.

This bill also provides for the provision of an infrastructure priority pipeline. Government has limited resources and much to do. Proper planning is the only way we can ensure that we are meeting community need in a timely fashion. Building Queensland will have a leadership role in creating business cases for infrastructure. This type of planning will mean that we can recapture the momentum of infrastructure growth in our state.

If we can judge a society by its architecture then Queensland over the last 30 years has gone ahead in leaps and bounds. This is, of course, notwithstanding the years between 2012 and 2014 when the only infrastructure project was then Premier Newman's tower of power. In any case, we move forward and get on with the job ahead of us. In a postmining boom environment, with industry searching for new projects, Building Queensland will provide the kind of clarity and certainty that we need. I commend the bill to the House.