




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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GUIDE, HEARING AND ASSISTANCE DOGS AMENDMENT BILL

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (9.47 pm): It is a pleasure to rise in this place tonight and commend the Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Amendment Bill to the House—the first bill that the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee has passed with bipartisan support. In the words of the member for Caloundra, who could argue with this: it's puppies.

What this legislation does is make life easier and fairer for the people in our community who rely on a guide, hearing or assistance dog. It was at the Guide Dogs Queensland team graduation on 29 April at the Guide Dogs Breeding and Training Centre at Bald Hills that I first heard about this proposed legislation. As the Deputy Premier addressed the graduates, staff, friends, families and supporters, she talked about the inequity that the Palaszczuk government was committed to removing. This bill goes to the heart of removing that inequity and it also reduces red tape, streamlines administrative processes and provides assistance and rights. It also goes further to allow new investigative and enforcement provisions to ensure that an act can be monitored and complied with. The application of this will ensure that a fundamental legislative provision can be delivered and that the rights and liberties of individuals who use guide, hearing and assistance dogs are genuinely realised. I commend the bill to the House.