




Speech By
Julieanne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.21 pm): I rise to contribute briefly to the debate of the Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. My father, Jim, is a plumber, albeit a retired plumber, and my nephew Max is now a plumber also. They will be pleased to see this bill passed.

A government member interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: Plumbing is in the family.

Mr Rickuss: Do they have to come to the electorate office? They said there was a drip there.

Mrs GILBERT: Very funny. I will not encourage him because the jokes just get worse!

As other members have stated, a lot of us do take our water and sewerage services for granted. We are used to being able to turn on a tap and get good, clean, potable water. We also take for granted our high standards of sanitation with flushing toilets and drainage.

When travelling overseas you do realise just what good services Australia has in terms of plumbing and drainage. As the member for Ferny Grove was saying, it is quite upsetting to see the level of sanitation in Third World countries because of the poor plumbing they have. You do not have to go to Third World countries to realise that we have very good plumbing and drainage here. In some quite sophisticated cities around the world you cannot drink water out of the tap and what you can use your toilet to flush is very limited. The plumbing industry is very important for our health and safety. It is a serious industry, and the Palaszczuk Labor government takes this industry very seriously.

The former state government abolished the plumbing industry regulatory body, transferring its functions to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. Plumbers need to have a voice in their industry. That is why this bill is so necessary. This bill will reinstate the regulatory body, which will be called the Service Trades Council. This body will sit within the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

The Service Trades Council will have a number of critical roles in its representation of the plumbing industry. This includes conferring on national policy development, including licensing and discipline, and reporting to the minister on issues of plumbing and drainage. The Service Trades Council will also be able to make recommendations to the Queensland Building and Construction Commissioner about the performance of any of the commissioner's functions under the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002.

A panel of industry and training experts will be established to consider complex licence applications, for example, for plumbers trained under different jurisdictions. We need to maintain a high level of skills. The panel will also review the disciplinary action taken by the commissioner. The

membership of the Service Trades Council will consist of government representatives along with industry experts. The Service Trades Council will be a one-stop-shop service for licensing and compliance in the plumbing industry.

This bill is about keeping Queensland's plumbing industry strong. It is about working with industry to deliver the best possible outcomes for Queensland. I congratulate the committee on their work. I also congratulate ministers Enoch and de Brenni for bringing this bill before the House. It is a very necessary bill and I commend it to the House.