




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (1.56 am): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House. The bill would see changes that would allow Public Service and local government employees to choose their own superannuation fund, an amendment that this side of the House supports. While the default fund will remain to be QSuper for the Public Service sector and LGIASuper for local government, employees will have the option to choose an alternative fund if they so wish. We have already heard of the work that the former treasurer, Tim Nicholls, has done in this area.

The proposed changes would also allow QSuper and LGIASuper to open its membership to the general public. As I said, the former LNP treasurer, Tim Nicholls, had already done a lot of work in this area and had approved changes that allowed members to transfer part or all of their accumulated balance to a fund of their choice. These changes would improve competitiveness with the industry and are supported by both QSuper and LGIASuper. Whilst some submitters felt that QSuper and LGIASuper would have an advantage as the default fund, they would need to be competitive, as the government could at any time in the future choose another superannuation fund as their default fund.

Another amendment to the bill will give the Treasurer the power to adjust an employee's defined benefit multiple in situations where there has been an increase in salary that is not associated with their remuneration. It should be noted that the Together union is not in support of this amendment. Given this Treasurer's record with the public servants' superannuation scheme, one can understand their unease. We all remember all too well the Treasurer's raid upon this scheme in the last budget when \$4 billion was raided to help prop up a failing budget bottom line. We were told at the time that this was in line with advice from the State Actuary. As we found out during the estimates hearings, this was not entirely correct.

The State Actuary said under questioning by the shadow Treasurer, Scott Emerson, that Treasurer Curtis Pitt had intended to raid \$6 billion from the fund. The State Actuary had recommended not removing any more than \$2 billion. We all know that the Treasurer then went and helped himself to \$4 billion. Is it any wonder that the Together union has some concerns with the Treasurer and these amendments.

I note that the proposed amendments to the planning and reporting requirements under the Queensland Plan 2014 were not supported by the committee as proposed in the bill. The committee recommended that a local government's annual report include a statement about the local government's actions in relation to the Queensland Plan.

The Queensland Plan is an important document that was developed under the previous LNP government with a 30-year vision for the state. Some 78,000 Queenslanders contributed to the formation of this vision for the future of our state. This is in stark contrast to this Palaszczuk government, which shows time and time again that it has no plan for the future. This government has spent its entire

term undoing LNP legislation, initiating inquiries and introducing job-destroying policies. There are no clearer examples of this than the shutting down of sandmining on Stradbroke Island and the job losses that are happening on the island as we speak.

The town of Oakey is still reeling over the decision to exclude New Hope's Acland stage 3 from accessing an associated water licence with the granting of a mining licence despite the Land Court hearing being concluded and a decision being imminent. This government would do well to take note of the Queensland Plan.

Tonight we saw more legislation come into this House which will impact on regional Queensland. The Easter Sunday public holiday on its own will have an impact on regional Queensland. Do not go down to the newsagent on Easter Sunday to get your paper because the shop will be shut. Do not call into the local service station; it will be shut. Do not call into the hotel for a meal; it will be shut. It is time this government spent less time chasing ideological green policies and put a bit more effort into job creation, supporting small business and restoring Queensland's AAA rating.