



Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE


Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 16 March (see p. 809), on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (4.12 pm), continuing: As I was saying before the debate was adjourned yesterday evening, the position of assistant commissioner is simply a re-creation of the previous position, which was then known as the plumbing industry council registrar. I understand that, in his letter to the chair of the Transportation and Utilities Committee, the member for Redlands expressed some concerns around this matter. I believe that those issues have been addressed as the costs will be met within the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. The creation of this position recognises the fact that in Queensland the building and construction industry is worth billions of dollars and supports tens of thousands of jobs. That means that the unique role and identity of plumbing is not lost. Indeed, as recently as yesterday the Master Plumbers Association of Queensland reiterated its support for this position. The committee received no submissions supporting the view that there is a concern or problem with the creation of the position of an assistant commissioner. I note that, in March last year when consultation began on the establishment of the council, nine submissions were received and all of those submissions supported a dedicated plumbing regulatory body.

This bill highlights the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the service trades of plumbing, fire protection, and air heating and cooling. The government recognises that the plumbing licensing system must stay strong. I applaud the government's work to ensure that representatives from local government are included on the council: one representative from the Local Government Association of Queensland and one from the Institute for Plumbing Inspectors. That will ensure that local government is given a strong voice.

Maximising policy outcomes that benefit Queenslanders and industry would not be possible without stakeholders. I know that a number of stakeholders provided a lot of assistance, advice and input into the creation of this bill, such as Penny Cornagh, the Executive Director of the Master Plumbers Association; Gary O'Halloran; the state secretary of the plumbers union; Wayne Smith, the Executive Director of the National Fire Industry Association; Graham MacKrill, the Executive Director of the Air Conditioning & Mechanical Contractors' Association; and Glen Chatterton, the Operations Manager of Service Trades Queensland.

I thank those stakeholders for their willingness to put in time and effort to work on the creation of the council and lend their expertise to assist in the assessment of technical and complex licensing applications, such as those from overseas, to ensure that the standards that Queenslanders expect are maintained. That is what they are doing by making sure that this council is in place. As I was alluding

to late yesterday, when I was the minister responsible for plumbing in Queensland I had the opportunity to work with some of those people. It is great to see that they remain consistently connected and committed to ensuring that there is proper and appropriate regulation in the plumbing and drainage industry in this state.

I acknowledge the work of the Transportation and Utilities Committee in examining and making recommendations on the bill. I congratulate the members of the committee for the work that they have done. I thank the former minister for housing and public works, the member for Algester, who I acknowledge in the chamber, for her work in introducing the bill and consulting the relevant stakeholders to reinstate this dedicated regulatory body for Queensland plumbers and drainers. I also congratulate the new Minister for Housing and Public Works, the member for Springwood, for the work that he has done in progressing this bill and for staying closely in touch with those very important stakeholders in what is a very important industry. I know that his work with stakeholders has been very much valued by those industry leaders.

This is a case of industry and government working together to get the best outcomes for Queenslanders. I know that yesterday in his contribution the Minister for Housing and Public Works outlined the helpful work that a number of representatives from Queensland government departments have done in providing valuable input into the creation of the bill. A strong plumbing industry is vital to Queensland. We do not do urban development and we do not get the developments we need without good quality plumbing to support our built environment. This bill recognise that by supporting and developing that industry in a regulated space that provides the best outcomes for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.