




Speech By
Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.01 pm): It is a pleasure to rise today to make a brief contribution in support of the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018. As we sat here earlier listening to the contribution from the member for Everton, I too took a little trip down memory lane. I remember being on Stafford Road in Everton Park when his community turned out in force to protest the sell-off of the Everton Park high school which happened under Tim Mander's watch.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. We have had numerous points of order raised about straying from the long title of the bill. I would ask that the member return to the long title.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Pine Rivers, I would ask that you return to the long title of the bill.

Ms BOYD: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise today to make a contribution in support of the Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill. The bill seeks to amend the access criteria under the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997. The key amendments to the criteria for Queensland's third-party access regime include clarification of the 'uneconomic to duplicate' test for access to criterion (b). As other speakers have outlined, the 2012 High Court decision has effectively altered the interpretation to a 'private profitability' test. This amendment is designed to revert the interpretation of this criterion back to the previous 'natural monopoly' test rather than a test to consider profitability for anyone to develop another facility.

The key second amendment relates to the public interest criterion from negative framing to an affirmative test so that that declaration must be in the public interest.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, there is far too much audible conversation from both sides of the House. I ask you to take conversations outside or listen in silence. Otherwise, I will go down the road of warnings through our procedures.

Ms BOYD: These changes to the criteria bring us into line with the changes made to the national access regime effective from 27 October last year. It is imperative that there is consistency between Queensland's access regime and the national access regime.

While the timing of the changes was a matter that stakeholders made particular representation about, it is important that these changes occur now to ensure that the criteria are consistent and robust prior to the Queensland Competition Authority's upcoming pre-expiry review of the declarations of Aurizon Network's Central Queensland coal network rail transport services, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal's coal-handling services and Queensland Rail's intrastate passenger and freight network. This needs to be done now to ensure that there are no serious adverse impacts and consequences for the industry dependent on access to this infrastructure.

We on the government benches are not prepared to see this infrastructure reviewed under inconsistent criteria. It would be irresponsible to the people of Queensland and would see Queensland disadvantaged well into the future. Appropriately regulated access to this key infrastructure will see innovation, efficiency and competition in this space. It will also avoid the unnecessary duplication of massive pieces of infrastructure such as rail and ports—infrastructure that should continue to ensure Queensland grows and thrives into the future. These kinds of fair access changes to the current criteria set out in this bill will ensure this. I commend the bill to the House.