




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.52 pm): I support the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and, like the Queensland Law Society, I will confine myself to speaking about just a few clauses. The amendments that deal with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 are to be supported, particularly for their focus on resilience. As a health professional I always focus on prevention rather than cure. Anticipation and mitigation of problems is much better than responding to problems, so these amendments should be supported. I am also particularly pleased with the Planning and Environment Court amendments. The power to refer matters to a private mediator will certainly reduce costs, and I believe that mediation leads to better and more sustainable outcomes. I think this amendment also gives light to the fact that the Palaszczuk government is a government that listens, consults and works with people. These changes were requested by the court, and the minister has worked to incorporate those changes into this bill.

I would also like to talk to the Sanctuary Cove amendments. As recently as six or seven years ago there was no retirement living in my electorate. I am pleased to say that now we have a significant number of retirement options for people. What used to happen was that when people who had raised their families and made a significant contribution in our community reached an age when they needed a retirement living option, they would have to move a very long way away. This was a great loss to our community. Now when you go to your local schools you see nannas and grandads there and you see more people volunteering. We really have a much more well rounded community and society because of those changes. I can only see these benefits flowing through because of the Sanctuary Cove amendments in this bill. I support them for that reason.

I now turn my attention to the LNP statement of reservation. Sadly, this statement of reservation epitomises the style of opposition provided by the Frecklington LNP. It is lazy and poorly thought through and shows no real understanding of the issues in this bill. Those opposite say that they support this bill but then turn around and are oppositional for the sake of it. I can see no real policy agenda being advanced here.

The member for Condamine has either misquoted or misrepresented the statements of the Queensland Law Society's submission. I have read the statement of reservation and it seems to me that the member has done this simply to suit the LNP's political agenda. No doubt many other speakers in this debate will simply parrot those words, as we have heard done many times before. I ask the member to justify the statements he attributes to the Queensland Law Society and point out where these statements were made. I cannot find the words 'it is a deeply regrettable decision to take such a wideranging legislative agenda that seeks to amend eight different acts and ram it into one omnibus bill'. What I did find when I read what the Queensland Law Society had to say was: 'Given the wideranging scope and complexity of the amendments, the Queensland Law Society has limited its comments to certain specific issues.'

Those two statements to me are very different statements. Sadly, that is the first paragraph of the statement of reservation. I can assure those who have not taken the time to read this 'very good piece of work' that it is not worth reading at all. Clearly, it is a piece that has been prepared by somebody

who was asleep during the committee hearings, did not bother to read the bill, did not bother to read the explanatory notes or has not engaged in the process—or they simply found someone who was not capable of writing the piece to do their homework for them. I encourage all members who have not read the statement of reservation to spare themselves time and simply support this bill.

This bill is a good bill. It improves efficiency across eight pieces of legislation. That is what we do in the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is why we are creating jobs. We listen to the community, we work with the community, we create jobs and we build a community. I commend this bill to the House.