




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2019

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and report No. 18 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. I will say at the outset that, although we on this side do not oppose the bill in its entirety, we have reservations around the preparation of infrastructure pipeline documents and the watering down of community consultation and we have concerns with the increased powers for inspectors, as does the committee, at recommendation 4. Recommendation 4 states—

The committee recommends that during the second reading speech the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning clarify the powers for investigation and enforcement of PDA development offences under clause 102, and outline the need for such powers.

In September last year, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning introduced the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, known as the EDOLA Bill, into the Queensland parliament. This bill is an omnibus bill and, as stated in the green, seeks to 'provide for increased operational efficiency of legislation under the administration of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning' by amending seven acts and repealing one. The bill proposes to amend the Building Queensland Act 2015, amend the Economic Development Act 2012, amend the Planning Act 2016, amend the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016, amend the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011, amend the Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985, amend the South Bank Corporation Act 1989 and repeal the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Development Entitlements Protection Act 2004.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's style of governing is epitomised by the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As the Queensland Law Society raised in its submission, 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. In a nutshell, once again this government is seeking to minimise scrutiny to further drive its own agenda. It is of deep concern that this government continues to ignore the concerns, wishes and rights of local Queensland communities.

In another example of the Palaszczuk government saying one thing and doing another, this bill looks to further water down the transparency and accountability of Building Queensland. In direct contrast to Premier Palaszczuk's commitment to open and accountable government, this bill will see reporting requirements for Building Queensland halved. This latest reduction in transparency will only amplify the difficulty for communities to hold the Labor government to account on the infrastructure delivery times they have been promised.

Concerningly, as I noted earlier, it is already common practice for Building Queensland to consistently change the format of the pipeline report, making longitudinal comparisons difficult at best. Halving the publication frequency of the pipeline report will do nothing but make it harder for Queensland communities to track the Labor government's promised project delivery dates.

Not only does the bill propose to decrease the community's ability to hold this government to account; it also further restricts localised decision-making. Leaving no doubt as to what the government's underlying agenda is, the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Queensland stated—

... the LGAQ is concerned this legislation further erodes the ability of councils and their communities to have a say in the size, shape and pace of development in their region.

On that note, I must say that I have seen some outstanding muck-ups as far as other infrastructure is concerned. For example, we talk about the developments around Yarrabilba. The road infrastructure getting in and out of that area is absolutely diabolical.

A common theme of the legislation introduced over the past four years by the Palaszczuk government is the consolidation of their own power at the expense of local decision-making. The proposed removal of the 'overriding economic or community need' test and the requirement for provisional priority development areas and provisional land use plans to 'not compromise the implementation of a planning instrument' is a direct dilution of localised decision-making.

In addition, the failure to include a requirement for the minister to consult with, and obtain the agreement of, each relevant local government area in planning for or developing a PDA, establishing an infrastructure agreement and issuing a PDA exemption certificate is an outrageous attempt to circumnavigate local community development concerns.

We have a list of all of the PDAs that are running at the moment. Some of them have been running as far back as 2010. Some 17 were put in place by the Beattie and Bligh governments, nine by the Newman government, two in the last term of the Palaszczuk government and four in this second term of the Palaszczuk government.

Inspector powers are another concern. Hidden within the 224 pages of the bill are some of the most concerning amendments that seek to provide substantial increases in the powers of investigation and enforcement for government inspectors that can only be exercised by the Queensland police under the authority of a warrant. The bill's explanatory notes provide no outline of why such amendments are necessary or how they are in the public interest. Powers for inspectors to enter premises, stop vehicles, and seize and dispose of information are considerable and should only be granted under the most serious of cases.

In closing, I remind members of the lack of any direction when it comes to exits 41, 45 and 49 or the second M1, which is a sad indictment on this government. I look forward to seeing some construction funding in the next state budget, but I will not hold my breath.