




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 11 August 2020

FOREST WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT BILL

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.14 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. I wish to specifically focus my contribution today on the second objective of the bill—that is, amendments to the Planning Act 2016 to facilitate the effective administration of the Springfield Structure Plan. As members would know, Greater Springfield is an important part of the Jordan electorate. As the local state member, I have a very strong interest in the continued success of this growing community. Greater Springfield, as the member for Glass House said, is unique in Queensland—a master planned community being developed by a single master developer. The founders of Springfield City Group, Maha Sinnathamby and Bob Sharpless, have previously said—

When you manage to take control of a 2,860 hectare single piece of land so close to a major capital city, you realise you have landed the opportunity of a lifetime.

This has compelled the founders to think boldly and to create a development that is now seen as a model across Australia for how residents can be encouraged to live, work and play all within their community.

The unique nature of how Greater Springfield has been developed has been the continued focus on preserving the Springfield Structure Plan, which was approved in 1997 and is part of the Ipswich planning scheme. The Springfield Structure Plan was originally prepared as a development control plan under the now repealed Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990. I call the Springfield Structure Plan the great survivor. It has survived not one but three planning acts—the Integrated Planning Act 1987, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and, most recently, the Planning Act 2016. With each act, the Springfield Structure Plan has been included in grandfathering provisions which seek to continue the recognition of the development of Greater Springfield. It is this continued recognition, this planning certainty, continuity and integrity of the Springfield Structure Plan that has allowed Springfield City Group to make important investment decisions and to develop Greater Springfield so thoughtfully and successfully.

The amendments proposed in this bill are aimed at addressing some uncertainty that has come about following recent decisions in the Planning and Environment Court and the Court of Appeal. As a result of the way the Springfield Structure Plan is established, Springfield City Group is the entity responsible for the delivery of major infrastructure under the plan. The recent court decisions mean that they no longer have sufficient input and oversight into the provision of this required infrastructure. The changes proposed to the Planning Act are there to address these issues and to ensure the effective operation of the Springfield Structure Plan.

Greater Springfield is home to my family and to over 43,000 of my constituents—in suburbs such as Springfield and Springfield Lakes, Augustine Heights, Brookwater and the new area of Spring Mountain, which is growing quickly. It is anticipated that the final population of Greater Springfield will be around 130,000 residents. As outlined in the South East Queensland Regional Plan, over the next

20 years South-East Queensland is expected to grow by almost two million people. Greater Springfield is very important to this and will play a key role in accommodating some of this expected future population.

As the SEQ plan points out, to realise this future we cannot just rely on luck. We need a clear vision to guide this growth. The amendments supported by our government are about implementing this vision. Greater Springfield is designated a principal regional activity centre and is planned to provide employment for 52,000 workers, in a town centre which includes commercial, retail, educational, health and technology facilities.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to our state facing some of the toughest economic conditions. We also know that our strong health response and the leadership of our Premier means that we can move quickly towards implementing a comprehensive economic recovery plan. Having an efficient and effective planning framework in Queensland is sometimes undervalued, but it is absolutely crucial to achieving sustainable economic development and the creation of jobs.

Greater Springfield has already seen thousands of jobs created, with many more anticipated as the community grows. Our Labor government understands this. Securing the integrity of the Springfield Structure Plan, as proposed by the amendments before us, will allow Springfield City Group and its many development partners to have continued certainty around planning provisions to allow continued financial investment in Greater Springfield. This is very important for the people I represent. I commend the bill to the House.