




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

**ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL**

CO-OPERATIVES NATIONAL LAW BILL

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.56 pm): I rise today to make my contribution to the Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 currently before the House. I first need to declare that I am a member of a number of local incorporations and I serve as a patron on many of our local organisations. This bill seeks to deliver a wide range of much needed reforms for Queensland's vast not-for-profit industry aimed at improving the experience of incorporated associations. These amendments seek to improve internal governance of incorporated associations, reduce the regulatory burden and to streamline and enhance government processes.

Incorporated associations provide an essential outlet for like-minded people like us to collaborate and participate in sport, social activities and hobbies, including industry representation as well as support for community or charitable organisations. I have a number of local incorporated organisations in my community. These are mostly run by hardworking and committed local people. Improving governance and reducing the burden on these local volunteers is so important to ensure the ongoing sustainability of our local organisations and all that these organisations provide for the constituents of my electorate of Mansfield.

Queensland businesses have been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic and, unfortunately, incorporated associations have not been spared from this destructive force. This bill delivers upon the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to supporting and assisting incorporated associations through these challenging and uncertain times. I note that there have been many initiatives that the Palaszczuk government has announced recently for our local sporting organisations in particular. This will be achieved firstly by clarifying the operation of the Associations Incorporation Act. This bill seeks to establish a scheme for the incorporation of associations, as well as matters including corporate governance, financial accountability and rules and membership of incorporated associations.

This bill also seeks to eliminate any ambiguity surrounding whether an association may adopt the model rules at schedule 4 of the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999 after its incorporation. To achieve this clarification this bill introduces a mechanism to expressly allow incorporated associations to amend their rules with the current modern rules. By providing guidance on how management committee members and officers of incorporated associations should satisfy their governance obligations, this bill seeks to reform the governance standards of these associations. I thank all of the members of incorporations who have made submissions and I thank all of our committee members from both sides of the House for their contributions to this bill. I commend this bill to the House.