




Speech By
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QUEENSLAND FUTURE FUND BILL

ROYALTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.58 pm): I rise to speak briefly in support of the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020. For many years and for many reasons, Queensland has been the envy of all the other states. Certainly one of these reasons is our fully funded defined benefit superannuation scheme. New South Wales is working towards having a fully funded superannuation scheme by 2030. Victoria is targeting full funding by 2035. Despite our highly enviable position, the state has not been receiving the full benefit of the surplus when it comes to our credit rating assessment.

The Debt Retirement Fund provides the mechanism for credit rating agencies to take quarantined liquid investment into account when undertaking their assessment. It is not dissimilar in the household budget when managing finances to a bank seeing your savings or your equity in a home when evaluating your assets and your capacity to service a debt. The value of the Debt Retirement Fund would be netted off against the debt of the state to support the credit rating assessments. As the Debt Retirement Fund grows, we can continue to improve the key metric used by these rating agencies.

As I said, this legislation ensures that Queensland's strong balance sheet receives the recognition that it has long deserved and this is not dissimilar to a bank seeing savings. I always want to liken these things to a household budget because that puts it in terms that most of us can understand. When evaluating assets, you look at not just your savings and not just what is in the bank account but what you have in equity. This bill does that so we get the credit we deserve.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms PUGH: It is sort of like the Barefoot Investor, as the member for Buderim says, and I know that he is a big fan of those books.