




Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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### **BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (6.22 pm): Thankfully the yelling has stopped. It is wonderful to be able to rise this evening and speak to the Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and support this bill as it supports our building industry. We know how many homes are needed here in Queensland for the future. It is so vital—it is so critical—that our building sector has confidence and that they are supported. It is support here in the Palaszczuk government that they will find.

Last week I had a meeting with Peter Flannery, the Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council. It was in that meeting that he raised with me the focus that the council has at the moment in relation to having home and living guides for the region. Our region in Moreton Bay is absolutely booming. We are one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. By 2041 we will need an additional 88,000 houses to cater for the 690,000 people that will call Moreton Bay home. That is 4,500 new homes that we will need in our region each year.

It is important that we have a building sector that is supported and that has the confidence that it needs. It is also important, as the mayor highlighted to me in our conversation, that people are designing homes in our region that can reduce the amount of energy that they use and also reduce the on-costs that they have throughout their time in their home. We are looking to be a livable and sustainable region. I love that there are so many components of this bill that support that.

I want to turn my attention to some of those particular components. In Queensland we love our rooftop solar. While one in four homes nationally have rooftop solar, here in Queensland it is one in three. Our community is hungry to get this infrastructure. I acknowledge the member for Bundamba, who is here in the chamber with us this evening. Recently he came with me to visit one of my local businesses, Springers Solar.

**Mr McCallum:** A great family business!

**Ms BOYD:** Springers are a great family business. They have just turned 20 years old. They have been providing this important infrastructure in our community for 20 years. They have ensured that local families can reduce their power bill and that we can all reduce our household emissions. I acknowledge the work that the assistant minister is doing, as well as the fantastic local family business of Springers Solar in my electorate.

There are a couple of components that I would like to delve into a little bit of detail around. One of them is the key amendment that supports consumer expectations with the efficiency of buildings and being able to ensure that home owners are allowed to install their solar panels and their hot-water systems in their preferred locations, not having to heed to bodies corporate or other pressures that we have seen around covenants and other restrictions placed on builders and home owners in the past. The 'ban the banners' legislation will continue to promote the uptake of rooftop solar—which is fantastic for the Sunshine State—and it will also ensure that bodies corporate by-laws are not placing unreasonable restrictions on where householders may install those solar panels and solar hot-water systems.

The other key amendment that I am a big supporter of is allowing treated greywater to be used for a range of other purposes and allowing the home owner of the premise to discharge toilet waste and greywater into a holding tank for collection for disposal offsite. There are amendments in this bill that will allow for treated greywater to be used in cooling towers for air conditioning in large building developments or for treated water to be used for other purposes such as the flushing of toilets.

I built a home in the time when a water tank and the connection of greywater was mandatory here in Queensland. Shortly after I constructed that home the laws changed. I remember having a conversation with people who were saying, 'Isn't it a shame that you built just before those laws changed?' I said, 'No, actually I am really pleased that we did connect the greywater back to toilets and laundries because we can ensure that we are reducing our footprint and recycling a precious resource for future generations.'

There are other key amendments in this legislation around head contractor licensing and the sharing of information on investigation outcomes and decision-making which will enhance the efficacy and transparency of the regulatory framework here in Queensland, which is important. The minor and technical amendments in this bill are much needed.

On the whole, these amendments improve confidence and certainty in the building industry by ensuring that there is a really robust regulatory framework in Queensland. We want to ensure that we have one of the strongest regulatory frameworks in the nation. Certainly the amendments in this bill will provide that. I thank the members of the committee: the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah; the deputy chair, the member for Gregory—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** Well done; congratulations—and the members for Stretton, Mundingburra, Toowoomba South and Condamine. What a shame it is that we do not have the former member for Callide here to celebrate the passing of this historic bill. We know how much the former member absolutely loves renewable energy. It is a real shame that we will not be able to share this historic moment with him as we continue to promote renewable energy through the great state of Queensland.

**Mr Harper:** I'm sure he would have backed it.

**Ms BOYD:** I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. I am sure he would have backed it, too. Instead, he has been busy giving us one of the more marginal seats in Queensland and we thank him for that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. Member for Thuringowa, I remind you that you are on a warning. It is probably not a good idea to take his interjections at the minute but I will let that one slide by.

**Ms BOYD:** I thank those who made submissions on this really important bill: the Property Council of Queensland, the National Electrical and Communications Association, the Master Electricians Australia, the Plumbing and Pipe Trades Employees Union Queensland, the Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland, the National Fire Industry Association Australia, the Strata Community Association of Queensland and, of course, our wonderful friends at the Local Government Association of Queensland.

I think there is an appreciation from all of those submitters that we have a really big piece of work to do in Queensland to ensure not only that we have homes for our booming population but also that those homes are considered and will continue long into the future with minimal running costs for residents. This is a sensible framework that absolutely meets community expectations whether those be around nonconforming building products, accessible housing or low-emissions buildings. Queenslanders expect modern buildings that reflect our community's climate and lifestyle. They expect safe buildings as well. This will absolutely deliver for Queenslanders well into the future. I congratulate the minister on a wonderful job in bringing this forward. I commend the bill to the House.