




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Dockside Marina

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.54 pm): I recently became aware of the situation facing commercial tenants at Dockside Marina at Kangaroo Point. The Department of Resources, under the direction of Minister Stewart and Director-General Mike Kaiser, issued these tenants with an eviction notice on 4 February 2022, effective on 4 March. This will affect 20 tenants who operate commercial businesses from the marina, businesses who have been hard-hit by the pandemic. The minister has used the section of the Land Act 1994 which states, 'Leased land may only be used for the purpose for which the lease was originally issued' which in this case excludes commercial operations. This is despite the fact there is nowhere else for them to go.

If the department had been enforcing this section of the act since the agreement was issued, you could understand it. However, this is not the case as some of those tenants have been operating from this site for almost 20 years. In fact, some of these operators were moved there by this government, and I am in possession of an email with these directions from the departments of transport and state development. There are a number of reasons why there is a shortage of marinas in the city, the growth of CityCat service and major developments along the riverfront being amongst them. However, the main reason for this situation is the lack of foresight and the absolute incompetence by this Palaszczuk government.

As these developments were occurring, it would seem nobody in the government anticipated this would lead to the current situation, which is something I find astounding. Brisbane is known as the River City, yet due to the negligence of this government we are now in a situation where there are no marinas in the city centre for commercial operators to base their business.

Brisbane has been named as the host city for the 2032 Olympic Games. Imagine when visitors arrive from cities with flourishing waterways from around the world and look out at the deserted Brisbane River. I understand there have been some complaints lodged with both local and state government about issues which have arisen from these commercial operators by the residents near the marina. These complaints should be addressed under local regulations. However, this minister went straight for the big stick and issued eviction notices. The minister must withdraw those notices and work with the tenants and the Brisbane City Council to establish a workable solution to keep these operators trading.

The iconic *Kookaburra Queen* is suffering a similar fate. With the redevelopment of the Eagle Street Pier, it needs to find another berth by the end of June and now Dockside Marina is no longer an option; it has nowhere to go. The Brisbane River precinct has always been a vibrant and bustling place for locals and tourists. We need these industries to showcase the river, not be driven out of business.