




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION BILL

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.56 am): This is a bill that I wholeheartedly support. I want to be very clear about that to my community, particularly those who rely upon the reforms in this legislation just as much as those who vocally oppose it. I am eager to make this contribution in this place because words matter. Our words hold weight in this debate, and there is an opportunity in this place to clarify not only my position but the facts of this debate which obviously need to be highlighted.

The LNP tells us that the regular consultation time for this legislation—the same time as for the vast majority of other bills—is not good enough and that the process needs to be dragged out longer. Despite close to 400 submissions, those opposite claim that elements of this bill have not been adequately addressed. The sheer number of submissions received dispels their argument about the committee process, not to mention the considerable input and consultation around this bill. There has been considerable work done globally and locally on these proposals, but the political purpose and agenda of the conservatives of the current day—an ultraconservative LNP—are to drag these issues out in a very public and divisive way. It needs to be called out because it is, in and of itself, damaging. We saw it from them when they were in government nationally with the long, protracted and hurtful process in relation to marriage equality.

This model is used by fringe dwellers to do what they always want to do—be provided with a platform that promotes, encourages and normalises homophobia, transphobia and general prejudice in our community. It is a tactic they deploy to cause harm and also protection for extreme conservatives to speak their mind. It is already borne out through the committee process, however inadequate those opposite claim it was. As always with these debates there were some pretty wild assertions made. Let's be really clear about some of the concerns raised, including that women's safety or rights are under attack. There is no credible evidence of safety issues; no instances of women being assaulted by gender-diverse people; no accessing women's spaces under false or malicious purposes; and no increased risk to gender registration misuse. There is no inherent risk in these reforms. Conservative claims in this regard are entirely misplaced, borderline hysteria when it comes to single-sex places, and driven by an agenda of fear and division.

Some of the key principles that underpin this bill include that biological factors are not the only relevant factors in determining sex. Both self-perception and how others perceive a person are relevant and just as important as physical characteristics. Collapsing sex and gender reflects the changing expectations of being able to accurately describe a person's identity beyond a rigid demarcation of two binary sexes. In fact, it is the preferred approach of the Queensland Human Rights Commission.

Our community is gender diverse and our current rigid systems often result in discrimination and distress. There can be no denying that. The changes in this bill will have an enormous impact on lives. Some of our community's most vulnerable people will be positively impacted as a result of these changes. This is an opportunity for us as legislators to validate identities and create a more inclusive

and fairer state where everyone is valued and able to engage more equitably. We do not stand to lose through these reforms; we only stand to gain through them. Every single one of us has value, and no single one of us has more value than the other. We as leaders have a responsibility to create a better, fairer Queensland, and this bill does that. That is why these reforms have my complete support.