




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

**LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)**

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.59 am): I rise to speak in support of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. In Queensland, the Land Act is the primary legislation for allocating and creating interests in state land and for the management of that land. Given my background as a planner before this life in politics, I am a big believer in the importance of land and its stewardship, care and maintenance as well as upholding good sustainability principles in the way that we manage our land. Land plays an important role in our economic development. I am really pleased that this bill will make some important changes—albeit, some might say, vanilla or boring changes—to an act that some might not see as the most important act that we have debated in this place, but I think it is very important for all Queenslanders to consider the way we manage our land in this state. State land is important to Queensland. It plays an instrumental role in supporting economic growth and community activities.

I am particularly pleased about the provision in the bill that enables the minister to dedicate a reserve for a purpose other than a community purpose, having regard to community need and public interests. Reserves form part of an important tenure in Queensland. Being able to dedicate a reserve for a purpose other than a community purpose will allow more flexibility to have regard to community need and public interest.

I also highlight the provision enabling a pathway to freehold conversion for non-Indigenous deeds of grant in trust. The amendments provide a process for initiating freehold conversion, but freehold tenure itself is not guaranteed. It is an important part of the provision that freehold tenure is not guaranteed. Tenure conversion will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will require a most appropriate tenure evaluation under section 16 of the Land Act, which includes having regard to the objectives of the act. The objectives of the act provide that land must be managed with consideration for and balancing of the cultural values of the land. I also support the provision that will replace the existing list of specific community purposes under the Land Act with six categories of community purposes. That will allow more flexibility around the types of community purposes than the existing list provides. That flexibility is going to be important for community purposes and state land into the future.

The bill amends the Place Names Act 1994 to provide clarification and broaden place-naming considerations to reflect important contemporary issues. The bill will reduce the regulatory burden associated with the naming of a place and will make the decision-making process more inclusive, flexible, objective and transparent. The amendments will enable the prompt removal of place names that are offensive or harmful to a community, or part of a community, supporting the proactive implementation of outcomes from other government initiatives and policies such as Path to Treaty.

The bill achieves its objectives as well by amending the resource acts to insert some new provisions to make the payment of applicable local government rates and charges as mandatory conditions of a resource authority. I am incredibly pleased that the resource authority and the payment of rates are going to be inextricably linked and that resource companies will be required to pay those local government rates. The provisions will also be amended in each act to allow the minister to use the resource authorities' security payments to remedy unpaid local government rates and charges.

I acknowledge the member for Lytton. When reading through the transcripts of the inquiry hearings, I was really pleased to read her questions to the Resources Council and the Local Government Association of Queensland, particularly with respect to the payment of local government rates. We hear the Resources Council squealing about paying too much in royalties and paying too much in rates. These are all ways in which the resources operators can contribute back to our local communities. To claim that rates are too high is a little bit rich coming from some of those big corporations.

The amendments to provisions in each act will allow the minister to consider non-payment of local government rates and charges during the renewal process for the resource authority. I wholeheartedly support this. If you do not pay your rates, you should not have the authority to mine or have that resource authority in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.