




Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.25 pm): I rise to support the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023 and I commend the department and the minister for their work on this important legislation. The key objectives of the bill are to improve regulatory efficiency and to ensure that the administration of state land and the place-naming framework remain contemporary and responsive to community needs.

Queensland is a big state and state land makes up about 60 per cent of it. Queenslanders are doing a lot on this land from economic productivity to primary production and community spaces, and Parliament House itself sits on state land. The bill contains a series of streamlining amendments that clarify policy, making it less complex. Specifically, the bill amends the Place Names Act, which has been mentioned by a number of members in this place, and it will introduce some new rules about naming places in Queensland. That is good because change in this area is really needed. It is something that we have to respond to for changing community expectations, in particular where placenames are offensive.

Members in this House might not know—and I am sure the member for Callide is probably unaware—that since 2015 the government has changed five highly offensive placenames with 10 others being discontinued. I had a look at the list of those placenames and, frankly, they were really quite disturbing. It is disturbing that they have remained in place until recently. There can be no argument that those 15 names were offensive. They contained what were, in effect, racial slurs. I commend the minister and the department for going through the extensive process to change them, and it was an extensive process. That is also part of the reason why we are bringing forward this bill. I say: well done, Minister.

In response to some of the statements made by the member for Callide, who raised concerns about the cost and the time in consultation, I would encourage him to have a look at the names that we have already changed in Queensland. I would challenge him to highlight which name he believes he would not change.

A government member interjected.

Mr MARTIN: I cannot imagine he would. I do not think he would remain the member for Callide for very long if he did, frankly. I think his contribution in this place has been certainly under par.

I also want to respond to his comments that were not really a blistering attack on corporations; it was more of a jelly arm sort of attack. The member for Callide's big complaint is that apparently an airport boarding screen said 'Meanjin' and not 'Brisbane'. I do not know about other members in this place but every time I buy a ticket to get on an aeroplane I know where I am going. It will say 'Brisbane' on—guess where? The ticket that has been purchased! If people do not use a paper ticket, they can always log into the app where it will say 'Brisbane'—in case they go to the Mackay Airport and perhaps

forget where they are going. I found that contribution particularly confusing. In addition, usually whenever I have seen the name 'Meanjin' it is right beside the name 'Brisbane' or perhaps the screen flashes from one to the other. It was certainly an unusual contribution.

I also say to the member for Callide that, now he has taken a stance of attacking the big corporations, maybe the LNP can stop taking donations from the big end of town. I do find it ironic that the LNP are certainly happy to support big corporations when it comes to reducing wages—that is fine—when it comes to offshoring manufacturing—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order! Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.