




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 April 2024

LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.11 pm): I rise today in support of the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2023. I am delighted to rise after listening to the contribution made by my colleague, who was also on the committee, in respect to the consultation for the bill. It is disappointing to hear the member go on and on about consultation and how we do not do enough consultation. I recall many instances in this House where all the opposition have done is complain about the fact that we do consultations. Again, what is it that you want—do you want consultation or don't you? This bill required a significant amount of consultation and I participated in that. I would like to comment on the information that he was giving in regard to the payment of rates, and I will address that later in my speech.

I would like to point out that there are more than 21,000 state land reserves managed by trustees for a variety of community purposes—for example, parks, public halls and sporting grounds. We all have plenty of those in our own electorates. Under the current regulatory framework, these lands have a narrowly prescribed purpose which limits how these trustees must use the land. I have a prime example. I have a rugby club, the great mighty Bugs—a wonderful club. They have a great facility on the bay and it is a wonderful spot. Last year, our Bayside Community Fund wanted to host an event at the clubhouse. They could not do it. It required a large amount of paperwork for them to be able to do that because they had to apply for permission to use the park or the rugby fields for an alternative use, and this bill will address that. That is a good story for all of our communities across Queensland.

It will mean that we can make better use of land that is in state hands—which as taxpayers we all own—in a more user-friendly way that makes it easier for us to go about our business. We will be modernising the administrative framework to give users of this state land more agency to make those decisions, which will benefit the entire community and those particular community groups. I think that is a significant achievement of this bill. I know that in my community it will make a very big difference. The amendments in the bill will support trustees, most of which are government departments, local governments or statutory bodies, to manage trust land in the interests of their communities.

The Land Act has not necessarily kept pace with the contemporary needs of the state and it imposes restrictive limits on how state land can be allocated and used. The government must be able to handle freehold land efficiently to deliver critical priority projects and to provide for changing community needs. This bill will cut red tape by reducing the duplication of existing decision-making around land use. Again, we consulted with the community and this is the feedback we received. We are removing the requirement for the Department of Resources to consider the most appropriate use of the piece of land and instead trustees can simply rely on the planning framework and other relevant laws that already govern land use.

Another significant community benefit is that the bill will allow for the diversification of leases for pastoral purposes. This will give pastoralists the opportunity to establish complementary uses for their land like glamping or farmstays. This great initiative will support a supplementary income and provide a steady income stream for those pastoralists.

As we have heard, the bill will also enable recreational names to be changed more easily and it will improve the resources regulatory framework to ensure the mandatory payment of local government rates and charges to support our regional communities. As all of us have said, including my colleague, the member for Keppel, the rates that are paid make a contribution to the lifestyle and the betterment of the communities that we all live in. If resource companies have not been paying local government rates to the communities they are operating in, this can now be taken into consideration if they make other applications for further mining. I commend the bill to the House.