




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (POWERS AND PENALTIES) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.22 pm): It is interesting to follow some of those opposite in this debate in that it appears if people break the law they do not want them penalised. I may have misheard, but I was a bit confused by what the previous speaker said. In my region, we are very progressive. Our traditional industries are evolving into new and exciting manufacturing industries. This is a very important bill for my region. We are getting a new state development area spread across two sites. One is at Racecourse Mill—this is an area down the road from residential areas and education facilities—and the other is at Rosella, which is mainly agricultural cane land with some homes peppered amongst it. The racecourse site is down the road from the member for Mirani’s neighbourhood. I was a bit surprised that the member spoke against this bill. It would be interesting to find out what the member’s neighbours think about his opposition to this bill that will secure the livability of their neighbourhood. The member talks the big talk in here but he never gets back home and explains to his electorate what he has actually said.

With the correct legislation in place, we can develop our manufacturing and business use to meet modern needs without unduly impacting on the lives of people living and working in the areas where these new industries and practices are evolving. This bill will support regulators to be responsive and proactive to changes in industry. It is important that our regulators are responsive and to make sure our environment is safe. The bill will also amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to ensure that environmental values continue to be protected, including the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders in our communities. The amendments in this bill will also facilitate a more proactive approach to environmental risk management to prevent communities from being exposed to harm. That is so important to my community because we want to see new industries. We want to see Queensland grow in the future and the community of Mackay wants to be able to live and coexist with future economic developments in our area. We want to be protected from the risk of increased dust, noise, odours and pollutants. This is what my region needs. I support the bill.