




Speech By  
**Kim Richards**

**MEMBER FOR REDLANDS**

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**ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.18 pm): I rise to support the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. I had the opportunity to chair the review of the electrical safety bill. Before I start on that bill, I will address the workers compensation bill.

I want to thank all of the rural fire brigades across the Redlands. I have the most amazing rural fire brigade team. To the teams on Russell Island, Karragarra Island, Macleay Island, Coochiemudlo Island and Lamb Island, thank you for all that you do to protect our community. I think the additional protections the bill will provide our firefighters are fantastic. I thank the UFUQ for all the work that they do to support their membership. Most members might not know that the member for Barron River was a firefighter—as most might not know that the member for Thuringowa was a paramedic! The positions they put themselves in are extraordinarily dangerous, so anything we can do to increase their protection is really important.

Gig economy workers are covered within this bill too, which I think is really important. It is an ever-growing sphere of workers and they can be very tricky pathways to navigate. With that said, I think this is a really great piece of legislation.

In terms of the electrical safety bill, I note the statement of reservation by the members for Toowoomba North, Condamine and Callide about images and videos. Let's face it, if there is a contravention of an act in a workplace, somebody who is going in to try to remedy the situation absolutely should be entitled to gather the appropriate evidence in order to prosecute. It boggles my mind that those opposite would have an issue with that. Before listening to the member for Bundaberg's contribution, I had not drawn the correlation in terms of whether or not they are for that sort of behaviour. It will be interesting to see what else he has to add tonight.

I will associate myself with the comments from everybody on our committee in terms of what we learned about extra-low voltage and ultra-low voltage. By the end of that session, I do not think we were too much further along in our understanding. We definitely had a little bit of—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms RICHARDS:** The member for Kurwongbah has given me some really great lessons. I am a proud member of the Electrical Trades Union. Over the last few years, the member has definitely been schooling me in terms of voltage and power and all things energy, so I thank him for that.

This is an important bill. It is the Miles Labor government that continues to put worker safety first. We will always do that. I thank the secretariat and everybody who was involved with the committee. This bill is as a result of multiple important reviews. I am really proud of this piece of work. I commend the bills to House.