




Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

**PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (8.34 pm): I was going to comment on the opposition's contributions later in my speech but I cannot help but react immediately. What we have seen on show in the chamber this evening by the four previous Labor speakers—the members for Nudgee, Bulimba, Jordan and Lytton—is ideology. The reason we secured more regional seats than ever in this House is the ideology of those opposite. What we heard was hypocrisy at its best. I have never heard such hypocrisy from a former environment minister like I did in the House tonight. The former Labor ministers were all proud to tout the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project when there was a complete disregard for environmental assessment or approval, cultural heritage, the Yuwi people and engagement with local government.

The reason we are debating the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is those opposite demonstrated blatant disregard for local government for 10 years. They showed no respect for regional and rural communities and for impact assessable developments. We have heard the member for Mirani be almost berated in this House—in fact, it was an attempt to bring him into disrepute. The member for Mirani entered this House with a mandate. He won that seat from a minor party member who sat in this House for many years after Labor lost the seat, and he won that seat because he stood up for his community. He has been accused tonight in this House of abusing taxpayers' money when what he has done is represented those communities that did not have a voice and were ignored by those opposite.

The former Labor government was happy to bring in legislation and code assessable requirements. I experienced that as the deputy mayor of Mackay, as many of my colleagues did. On this side of the House, we actually value local government. This side of the House has more members who have served in local government than the opposite side, but they get up here and speak as if they have some, I do not know—

Mr Field: Magic pudding.

Ms CAMM: Magic pudding—I will take the interjection. They know nothing about local government. They know nothing about respecting local communities. They know nothing about sitting in a council chamber having to make a decision that is then sent to the planning court because they were not given the tools under the Planning Act. I want to commend the Deputy Premier on his leadership and the way he has engaged with our local communities in regional Queensland—

A government member: Labor hates them.

Ms CAMM: I will take that interjection. Labor hates regional communities—apart from today when they flew into our regional communities. The member for Bundamba cannot even pronounce 'Bucasia Road' in my local community. He is now a laughing stock and is not welcome back in the Mackay-Whitsunday area; it is quite hilarious.

I want to speak to what is a very important bill. We are proud on this side of the House to finally see the Olympic and Paralympic Games being able to move forward with a delivery plan. Queenslanders spoke at the 2024 election. We do not need to hear those opposite. They think we have not engaged, but we engaged for four years and that is why we are on this side of the House. Queenslanders spoke about streamlining governance for the Olympics, a games leadership group and the Brisbane 2032 organising committee board. We will see an opportunity for government to facilitate and deliver. I heard the member for Lytton talk about the 'Brisbane games'. It is not the Brisbane games; it is the Queensland games. It is the Queensland games because the Deputy Premier engaged regional Queensland and delivered a plan that is going to encompass regional Queensland—Maryborough, Rockhampton, Whitsunday and Townsville—and we are proud of that.

I also want to speak to the amendments to EDQ, having been the former chair of planning and economic development in my time in local government at Mackay Regional Council. What I would say is EDQ left us waiting. These reforms will allow and facilitate EDQ to be agile, to be responsive and to be able to deliver where we need them to deliver, and that is bring forward development that is going to deliver not just economic outcomes but housing supply across our state.

I also want to touch on and commend the planning changes that we will see when it comes to the community benefit for solar and wind developments. I think the difference between the Clarke Creek and Lotus Creek projects was highlighted quite clearly by the member for Mirani—one was impact assessable versus one was code. My guess is those opposite would not even know where Clarke Creek or Lotus Creek are because all we have heard from Brisbane-based MPs and shadow ministers tonight is all about Brisbane. I would welcome a wind farm proponent to maybe put something up in the member for Bulimba's seat or a solar farm perhaps in the member for Lytton's seat. That would be well received, I am sure, by our communities in regional Queensland.

What this will deliver in community benefit is consistency. It will give assurance to investors that they know what the rules are in our state. We welcome renewable investment, as we have welcomed coal investment.

In my time in local government in economic development, there are good proponents and there are bad proponents, and that is the truth across the entire spectrum of investment. What we are doing is actually front-loading with a policy and then followed by legislation which sets out the rules of engagement when you want to invest in Queensland. The expectation that our community has is there be investment where you will have an impact in rural and regional communities. So they should, because these projects may be high in capital, but they do not deliver jobs on the ground. You cannot compare a wind and solar farm with a coalmine. I get on a plane each and every week, back to my home town, with many members here on this side of the House. Most of those opposite just drive 20 minutes home, but on this side of the House many of us have to fly and then we have to drive several hours. When I do that, I am surrounded by coalminers—coalminers who have done the hard yards in ensuring the revenue that those opposite wasted is here and is invested in our state's services.

It is not too much to ask that wind, solar and renewable proponents have to invest in social capital and social impact and have to demonstrate their investment not just in Queensland so that they take the returns but demonstrate their investment in local communities where they are having an impact.

With that, this is about delivering approvals in the right location, ensuring energy transition at the right time for the right projects is received in the right parts of our state where communities want to embrace that and where proponents want to work with communities. Those opposite came into this House and accused a member who stood on a platform with a mandate from his community to stand up for his community. That is why people stand up for government. That is why people nominate to be members of parliament. People in this House should respect the integrity and the conviction that people have because those opposite—

Mr Power interjected.

Ms CAMM: I am not taking the interjections from the member because I do not actually care what he has to say tonight. What we all should respect in this House is that we all sit in these chairs representing our community with conviction and we stand on issues that matter to our community. Brisbane-based MPs over there on the opposition benches gave no regard to the community in the Pioneer Valley, no regard to my community where I grew up in Mirani, in Pinnacle, in Finch Hatton, in Eungella or in Netherdale. With the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project they were prepared to destroy a community. We are now facilitating those landowners to buy back their properties. Those opposite had no regard for the natural environment, no regard for the biodiversity of the Eungella National Park and no regard when it came to the impact on our community.

They can stand up and contribute all they want tonight, but the fact is they have no credibility when it comes to managing the environment, no credibility when it comes to major projects or renewable projects, and it is only an LNP Crisafulli government that will respect communities, respect local government and ensure we get the settings right to drive investment in our state for the next generation.