




Speech By  
**Hon. Ann Leahy**

**MEMBER FOR WARREGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2025

### **REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. A LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers) (3.39 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. At the beginning of my contribution, I would like to address the amendments to the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act which were circulated by the Treasurer yesterday. The distributor-retailer amendments will retrospectively validate irregularities in the processes followed by the boards of the distributor-retailers. They are necessary to resolve irregularities in adopting infrastructure charges schedules and making decisions related to this.

The objective of the amendments is to declare the infrastructure charges under the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act as properly made. The amendments will put forward beyond doubt that the infrastructure charges schedules were properly adopted. They will declare that they are valid, along with related decisions and actions, issued notices and agreements entered into.

Infrastructure charges schedules are part of the distributor-retailer's Water Netserv Plan. The Water Netserv Plan sets out the water supply and sewerage trunk infrastructure networks. The infrastructure charges under the SEQ water act are levied by the distributor-retailers, guided by the infrastructure charges schedule. Levied charges contribute to the provision of essential water and sewerage trunk infrastructure that service growing South-East Queensland communities. Certainty about infrastructure charges is absolutely necessary. The distributor-retailers, their owner councils, consumers and the broader community need to know that charges like this are valid and properly made.

Despite these irregularities in making declarations about the validity of the charges, all charges levied were correct. This has been an administrative processing matter. The developers will not be worse off and will not be charged more than they were supposed to be charged under the SEQ water act under this proposal. Water supply and sewerage networks are planned and delivered by Urban Utilities for the Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council, Lockyer Valley Regional Council, Scenic Rim Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council areas. The Noosa Shire Council, the Sunshine Coast Council and the City of Moreton Bay areas are serviced by Unity Water.

Urban Utilities and Unity Water are distributors under the SEQ water act. The distributor-retailers have advised the government that, without resolving these irregularities, there would be increased cost that could be passed onto consumers through their water and sewerage charges. These amendments will clarify that the distributor-retailer's Water Netserv Plans are, and always have been, valid.

In relation to the Crisafulli government, I am very pleased to see the Treasurer is cutting taxes. It is a long time since we have seen a treasurer in this place cut taxes. We are scrapping stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing a new home. This is an up-front tax. There is no capacity for deferral. If people do not pay they do not get to purchase. The removal of this tax will save first home buyers tens of thousands of dollars. The stamp duty cost can often be the difference between buying or not buying your first home.

That brings me to another core part of the bill related to renting out a room. The reality is that many potential first home buyers need the option to rent out part of their home just to make ends meet. I know many young people are in that situation. This bill makes that possible for first home buyers without another hit to their hip pocket. This bill is proof that the Crisafulli government is delivering on what Queenslanders voted for—respect for their money and a place to call home.