




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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TRUSTS BILL

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (8.37 pm): I rise to address the Trusts Bill 2025. In all the time I have been in this House, I have seen a lot of debates guillotined—always by the Labor Party, I might add—but I have never seen anyone in this House try to guillotine a debate when only one member from their side has addressed the bill. Only one Labor member chose to jump up and address this bill—so far, I might add. I know that it is a debate and some of them might actually choose to represent their constituency. Rather than talk about these important issues that have a real impact on Queensland, they want to knock off and go to bed. Working on a Friday night is a bridge too far for the Labor Party. They want to knock off because they are not getting double time and a half.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is late on a Friday night. Let us just get through this. Member for Buderim, continue your contribution on the bill.

Mr MICKELBERG: They want to knock off because they are not getting double time and a half, but I will move on to the bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I cannot hear myself because of my own side.

Mr SPEAKER: It is pretty bad when I cannot hear the member for Buderim.

Mr MICKELBERG: I cannot hear myself think and this is an important contribution.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Buderim is the only one in the chamber who has the call.

Mr MICKELBERG: Thank you, Mr Speaker. At the outset, I want to note that I have an interest in a trust both as a beneficiary and also as a sole director and secretary of a corporate trustee. It is declared on my register of interest, but out of an abundance of caution, I am declaring that here tonight. It has been more than 50 years since the Trusts Act has been significantly modernised, and that is despite a thorough consultation and comprehensive review back in 2012 when the LNP were last in government. In fact, the former government similarly started work, but did not finish the work, to address the Trusts Bill.

Mrs Gerber: Sounds about right.

Mr MICKELBERG: It does sound familiar, member for Currumbin. Far too often it is all about the announcement at the start, but they forget about the actual doing at the end. That is 100 per cent on the money, member for Currumbin. A lot has changed since the 1970s. For starters, I was not even born back then, unlike the member for Clayfield. Like any legislation that was created almost half a century ago, it is outdated and it needs to be brought into the 21st century. It is disappointing it has

taken so long for this to occur, but I commend this dynamic Attorney-General in the Crisafulli government, the member for Nanango, for making this one of her first priorities—among her first priorities, not her first priority—upon being appointed Attorney-General of this state.

The Queensland Law Reform Commission conducted the review back in 2012 and in 2013, and they made an expert recommendation back then to update the trusts law here in Queensland. More than 10 years later—10 years of Labor government; it took a long time—the former Labor government finally put the wheels in motion to introduce the act's modernisation to this place, but they did not last long enough to actually pass the bill. The display tonight is very clear why that is the case. They simply do not have the heart for it. They simply do not want to step through the systematic, methodical and sometimes boring work—I am not going to lie, this is not the most exciting bill in the world—but systematic, methodical, important work that it takes to govern properly. Those are the bits those opposite, the Labor Party, forget about far too often.

The Crisafulli government is now doing the work that should have been done when Labor came to power a decade ago—introducing this bill, now called the Trusts Bill 2025, early in the term—because Queenslanders have waited long enough for these long overdue reforms. Through thorough consultation with key stakeholders and experts in the field, this modernised bill deals with a range of important matters, including restrictions and general powers for trustees while providing improved guidance around the maintenance of trust property and court powers. These are important issues. Of course, this has happened through the committee process in particular.

I want to acknowledge the member for Nicklin. How good is it to have the member for Nicklin back in this place? The member for Nicklin ably chaired the committee that considered this bill, alongside our tremendous members for Thuringowa and Capalaba, off the top of my head. I acknowledge the Labor members and the Green member on that committee as well, although I note that only one of those members chose to speak to the bill. We are on the speaking list now, so I admit they might come in here, but I notice they were that intent on ensuring that this bill was rigorously scrutinised, they could not even be bothered addressing it. Nonetheless, I want to acknowledge the committee's work and I want to acknowledge the member for Nicklin—the true member for Nicklin, in my mind—for his working through some serious issues in his short time back in this place since October. Gee, it is good to have him back. I know the people of Nambour, Kenilworth and Yandina are glad to see a competent committee chair like the member for Nicklin overseeing bills like the Trusts Bill 2025. He is a capable, competent and diligent member of parliament, as opposed to his predecessor, and I really could not be happier. I am not going to lie, I am most happy that the member for Nicklin is now Marty Hunt in this place, even more so than the fact that I am the member for Buderim.

Mr O'Connor: Is there a relevance on this?

Mr MICKELBERG: There is not. I am pleased that there will be a 12-month lead time once this bill has been passed so we can ensure all Queenslanders are prepared for any changes. It begs the question why those opposite are so eager to put the bill, given there is a 12-month lead time.

Ms Scanlon interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I can hear those opposite. The shadow attorney could only speak for a little bit on it when she had her turn, but she wants to interject now. Maybe you can raise matters in consideration in detail, shadow attorney—maybe; I do not know. Maybe we were just not paying attention through the committee process.

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, thank you, member for Buderim.

Mr MICKELBERG: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. I know that there is only one recommendation made by the committee that the shadow attorney sat on, and could only speak for a very short period of time on this bill, and that was for it to be passed. I, too, support this bill being passed, and I commend the bill to the House.