




Speech By
Hon. Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2025

TRUSTS BILL

Declared Urgent

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (4.26 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Trusts Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the bill by Friday, 7 March 2025.

As I clearly enunciated in my contribution, how many years has the Trusts Bill—

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. We have been waiting. All trusts lawyers who are out there have been waiting and waiting and waiting for this to happen. The former government, whom I clearly acknowledged in the middle and end of my contribution, eventually, kicking and screaming, did the work and got the Trusts Bill before the parliament. It went to committee. It had extensive consultation. We have had that consultation back. We have listened to that consultation. The department and I have worked with the Law Society around those concerns that I clearly outlined. We have discussed the changes in auxiliary funds that I clearly outlined. We have taken on board the decades-long consultation that the industry has had in relation to this.

The former Labor government sat on a review for, it is a decade, but let's say six years, where they did not even acknowledge the QLRC work that had been done. We have gone back time and time again, review after review after review. Let's get on with it! Let's just move this bill.

The lapsed bill, as I discussed, was comprehensively considered by the former committee and, in my contribution, I clearly acknowledged that work. I methodically went through the concerns that we had addressed. The recommendations by the former committee have been taken on board by the Crisafulli government and we have ticked that off in that bill. We are giving time to the committee. We are not debating this today. I am really hoping that the opposition can just get on and allow us to do this within this time line. I will acknowledge I have spoken to the chair of this committee who reassures me that this time line, to get this back by Friday, 7 March, is more than doable. They have already reviewed the documents of the former committee. My department staff are making themselves available. There is heaps of time in relation to that.

As I outlined in my first reading speech, I talked about how the former committee's report made those two recommendations and one, importantly, was that the lapsed bill be passed—let's get on and just get that done—and that consideration be given to ensuring that the lapsed bill does not restrict who can be deemed to hold property under a remedial constructive or resulting trust. We have listened, we have worked on that and that has been put into the bill.

Given the similarities between the Trusts Bill 2025 and the lapsed bill, and that the lapsed bill was subject again to detailed consideration by the former committee, it is appropriate that our new committee not go through the process of virtually mirroring that of the former committee and that the bill be declared urgent with a truncated time line for the committee's consideration and report back.

These overdue reforms have been held up by the former government for the better part of a decade and it should be unnecessary to hold them up any longer.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the interjection from the former shadow attorney-general, who just said to me that people have been consulted until they are blue in the face in relation to the Trusts Bill. We have listened, we have amended and we have brought in the bill as soon as practicable to meet some of the concerns of the Queensland Law Society—that has been ticked off. Let's get the bill to the committee, let's get it back and let's debate it in this House.