




Speech By
Glen Kelly

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

Record of Proceedings, 25 June 2025

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

 **Mr G KELLY** (Mirani—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak on the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This bill does multiple things. It will help ensure we deliver our Olympic Games plan by clarifying the role of the Olympic and Paralympic Games authority, focus on the oversight and delivery of our 2032 Delivery Plan and identify the venues and locations in the legislation. While that is certainly important to the state in helping deliver the rowing to Rockhampton, with part of one of the banks of the course being in my electorate, it is not the part of the bill that matters most to my electorate of Mirani. The bill changes the wind and solar approvals, which has been the hot button issue in my electorate of Mirani, one that has been bubbling away for nearly 10 years. Because of that, I want to focus the rest of my speech on these aspects of the bill.

I want to give this chamber an idea of what the communities that surround wind and solar projects were forced to cop under the previous government and why these changes are necessary. For too long these communities were not being listened to and were ignored when they voiced their concerns around quality of life, the environment and their livelihoods. I saw that firsthand as a neighbouring landholder to a wind factory that is currently held up in the EPBC approval process. I have seen the anxiety, the stress and the toll that takes on the mental health of those who have had these projects sprung on them. These developers would often go quietly to an area, find willing landholders and secure the land for their projects. They would then develop the site plan with the only consideration being given to the host; they would not give the neighbours a look-in to see what was going on.

Most of the developments in my electorate are wind farm developments that were approved under the old state code 23 where wind farm developers were effectively given free reign. What we saw under the old system was similar to the early coal seam gas industry when gas companies ignored the landholders and steamrolled their way into communities until political pressure forced a solution. The very same thing happened with renewables—an industry that became polluted with companies chasing an easy buck, not providing for Queensland, for Australia or for the communities in which they operate. This is a shame because had renewable development been done correctly from the start, we might not be at the point where communities that have been burnt by the reckless rollout of renewables want no more projects in their area.

As elected officials, it is our job to listen to the people in our electorates and the people of Queensland. Too many people feel like they have been sacrificed at the altar of renewables, whether it is the people of the Pioneer Valley, who found out that they might be losing their homes from the media, or graziers like the Smoky Creek 'Tenacious 10', who have been fighting the Smoky Creek solar farm for nearly eight years, or the countless other landholders who will have to deal with the shadow flicker, the constant swirling from the spinning blades and the risk of contamination run-off from damaged turbines and panels.

Too often those impacted by these projects were told their concerns did not matter because we had to rush this to stop climate change, to save the earth or to move towards net zero. The mental anguish, the stress and the impact on the quality of life of those who have to live near these projects have been dismissed. I have watched happy, healthy people turn into skin and bones because of the stress that neighbouring projects have had on them. These developers expect neighbours to eventually get sick of fighting and give up. All too often this is the case because when the stress starts to kill them, slowly start to wear on their soul and make it harder to continue every day, it becomes easier to walk away and give up. We are putting an end to this. We are giving communities a say, giving them an opportunity to have their voices heard, ensuring these projects provide a legacy, do not destroy our natural environment and actually provide a benefit to the community in which they reside.

For too long developers have given lip-service to community consultation. Anybody who has been to these consultations knows there is not much consultation going on. These sessions are more like lectures with communities being told what is going to happen rather than working with them to get something they can live with. By making these projects impact assessable, we can ensure the community gets some benefit. We can ensure these projects are built in the right location where the environment is not going to be unnecessarily impacted and where the surrounding community gets a benefit instead of a burden.

In my electorate I now have six wind projects being built or almost completed. It was going to be seven until our government did what we promised: give communities a say on all new wind farm developments. We did that for the Moonlight Range Wind Farm when the Deputy Premier called it in, listened to the community and cancelled the project. That was a wonderful result for the community in Morinish, many of whom had no idea that a wind farm was going to be there until the call-in process started.

I was recently in Lotus Creek with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. In Lotus Creek we met with local communities including the Mayor of Isaac Regional Council, Kelly Vea Vea, to hear their concerns about roads in the area. With two wind farms along the Marlborough-Sarina Road it is no surprise that the impacts on the roads and how each development was managed were key topics. Clarke Creek Wind Farm went through a full impact assessment prior to the implementation of state code 23, and the difference between those requirements and that of the Lotus Creek Wind Farm is stark. The Clarke Creek Wind Farm invested in pull-over bays to ensure the safety of cattle trucks that consistently travel along that road to ensure the impacts of construction were mitigated as much as possible. They had numerous environmental restrictions placed on the project to help manage things like run-off and reduce the amount of land clearing. While there is a lot of issues with this wind farm, the surrounding community is less opposed to the development because they were consulted; they were brought along on the journey. While they might not support the wind farm, most of the landholders can at least live with it.

Lotus Creek Wind Farm—over 50 kilometres further up the highway—however, was approved under state code 23. This is an area that should be a koala sanctuary, but we are putting a large-scale industrial project there. When it comes to koalas, Brisbane stops; when it comes to renewable energy, koalas are nothing. When it comes to the Great Barrier Reef, the world stops; when it comes to renewable energy and these developers that run up and down the coast of Queensland, the Great Barrier Reef is a nothing. The community does not seem to have been considered in this development. There are no pull-over bays and no consideration for other road users, including the school bus, which has already had to be repaired with a new windscreen because of trucks kicking up rocks into it. There are no additional pull-over bays, no thought was put into what happens when a truck pulling a wind turbine comes across a cattle truck on the other side of the road, no community input and, from what I have been told, locals who do get jobs up there are made to feel like outsiders. This is not good enough.

The former Labor government opened up the floodgates to the cowboys in the industry and left the impacted communities out in the cold. Under the Crisafulli government, this is changing. We are giving communities their voice back and making sure that people get their say, making sure that our endangered flora and fauna is properly considered, making sure that neighbours are properly consulted and making sure that people who are impacted by these industrial developments can have their voices heard.