




Speech By
John Barounis

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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

 **Mr BAROUNIS** (Maryborough—LNP) (9.58 pm): It is an honour to stand before you today to speak on a bill that represents not just a legislative change but a change in values, in direction and in how government treats its people of Queensland. Today I speak to the Planning (Social Impact and Community Benefit) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025—a bill that restores fairness, re-establishes community voice and recognises that regional Queensland deserves the same respect and consultation as any other part of our state.

For more than a decade regional Queensland has played host to large-scale renewal energy developments—wind farms, solar farms and major infrastructure—that fundamentally changed the landscape of our communities, but here is the truth: our communities have been treated like an afterthought in this process. Under the former Labor government, the planning framework for these projects was not fit for purpose. Community consultation was optional and, even worse, appeal rights were non-existent. Let me ask you this: why should a family living in a regional town have fewer rights than someone living in a city suburb when it comes to major developments in their own backyard? They should not, and that is what this bill addresses. Let me bring this home. My own electorate of Maryborough has faced its own battle. There is a proposed site for a large-scale wind farm—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hunt): Member for Maryborough, can I get to you take your seat, please. Under the provisions of the order agreed to by the House, I call the Deputy Premier to reply to the second reading debate.