




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Miss DOOLAN** (Pumicestone—LNP) (5.29 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Electrical Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. This is an important bill because it is about restoring balance and integrity and ensuring that workplace safety in Queensland is exactly what it should be about: keeping workers safe, not empowering bad actors. Safety should never be weaponised, it should never be twisted into a tool for intimidation and it should never be compromised by politics.

The former Labor government introduced provisions that went far beyond their stated intent. They created a system where union officials could request vast amounts of compliance and enforcement information with no real limits, no clear safeguards and no proper accountability. Let's be honest about what that meant: it meant the potential for this information to be weaponised, not to improve safety but to target businesses, to intimidate employers and to disrupt worksites. It also meant a significant administrative burden on the regulator, pulling resources away from where they matter most: actually keeping Queenslanders safe at work. That is not a good policy, that is not good governance and that is certainly not in the interests of workers.

This bill takes a clear and decisive step to fix that. It repeals those uncommenced information-sharing provisions before they could be exploited. It restores the focus of the regulator back to where it belongs: protecting workers, not feeding union fishing expeditions. Importantly, it aligns Queensland with other states, ensuring we are not an outlier when it comes to workplace regulation.

This bill is not just about repealing bad law. It also strengthens our electrical safety framework. It provides clarity for electricity entities like Energex and Ergon to issue defect notices—something they have been doing for decades but which now has clear legislative backing. It modernises the regulator's powers to prohibit unsafe electrical equipment, ensuring that dangerous products can be taken off the market quickly and effectively. It brings these important powers into the act itself because, when it comes to safety, clarity matters.

These reforms are not happening out of nowhere. They have been supported by industry stakeholders who are on the ground and understand what is happening. We heard clearly from organisations like Master Builders Queensland and the Civil Contractors Federation. They spoke about the need to restore productivity, to remove the industrialisation of safety laws and to ensure that safety remains focused on genuine risk, not industrial leverage. Importantly, the committee recommended that this bill be passed.

This bill presents a very clear question for those opposite: do they stand with Queensland workers and businesses or do they continue to stand with the CFMEU? This legislation draws a line in the sand. It says that workplace safety will not be hijacked, that intimidation and coercion have no place in our system and that this government will always back fairness, productivity and genuine safety.

I want to bring this back to my community of Pumicestone because this is not an abstract concept. This matters on the ground. In Pumicestone, we have tradies, small builders, subcontractors, electricians and apprentices—people who are working hard every single day to build our community. They are working on local infrastructure and working in small family businesses and give so much back

to our community. I give a big shout-out to Brendan Harvey Builders on Bribie Island who are going above and beyond to support our community, especially with our grassroots sporting clubs. Only yesterday it was Brendan's birthday, so happy birthday, Brendan!

What do people like Brendan tell me? They tell me that they want to be safe, they want fair rules and they want to get on with the job. This bill delivers exactly that. It ensures that safety laws are used for their intended purpose to protect workers like those in Caboolture, Beachmere, Ningi and Bribie Island. It ensures that regulators can focus on real risks, not paperwork generated by unlimited information requests. It ensures that businesses in our community can operate with certainty, knowing that the system is fair, balanced and focused on outcomes. If we are serious about building more homes, about delivering infrastructure and about growing our economy then we must also be serious about productivity. Productivity starts with a system that works. This bill is a step in the right direction.

This legislation is about restoring common sense. It is about putting safety back at the centre of workplace laws. It is about standing up for Queensland workers, businesses and communities, including mine in Pumicestone. At the end of the day, every worker deserves to go home safely, but they also deserve a system that is fair and free from intimidation. That is what this bill delivers. I commend the bill to the House.