



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 2 June 2026

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINING) AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise to address the Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025. At the outset, I wish to place on record my support for this legislation and commend the Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation for bringing this important reform to the Queensland parliament. The member for Glass House will be, over successive terms, the longest serving environment minister here in Queensland. He is working extremely hard as part of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government. I certainly commend him for his efforts.

Queenslanders rightly expect strong environmental protections. They expect their governments at all levels to safeguard our unique natural environment, protect native wildlife, preserve our waterways and support sustainable development. They also expect government regulation to be practical, effective and efficient. Those objectives are not mutually exclusive. Indeed, one of the hallmarks of good government is ensuring that environmental protection frameworks are robust, contemporary and focused on achieving real outcomes rather than creating unnecessary complexity and administrative burden. That is precisely what this legislation achieves. The Environmental Protection (Efficiency and Streamlining) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill modernises Queensland's environmental regulatory framework, removes duplication, strengthens compliance mechanisms, improves rehabilitation processes and delivers greater certainty for stakeholders while maintaining strong environmental safeguards.

Importantly, this legislation reflects the broader approach of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government. Our state government rejects the false choice that Queensland must somehow choose between a strong economy and a healthy environment. We understand that environmental protection and economic prosperity go hand in hand. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government also recognises that sustainable environmental outcomes are best achieved through clear rules, effective regulation, strong enforcement and practical partnerships with communities, landholders, conservation groups and industry. That is why this legislation delivers practical reforms that improve efficiency while maintaining the environmental protections that Queenslanders expect. It reduces duplication, streamlines approval, strengthens enforcement powers against environmental offenders and provides greater clarity regarding Queensland's environmental priorities.

As the state member for Moggill, I am particularly proud of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government's environmental credentials and our strong commitment to supporting grassroots environmental stewardship. The electorate of Moggill is fortunate to be home to remarkable natural landscapes that contribute significantly to the environmental character of Brisbane's western suburbs. As the Minister for the Environment knows, there are a number of election commitments that we have delivered in the electorate of Moggill that have enhanced environmental protection and conservation efforts by a number of groups. I am going to outline some of those. From the Brisbane River and Kholo Creek through to Moggill Creek, Gold Creek, Pullen Pullen Creek and the extensive bushland reserves

throughout our western suburbs, our local environment plays a vital role in the lifestyle, character and amenity of our community. Protecting and enhancing these natural assets requires more than legislation alone. It requires local knowledge, dedicated volunteers, community partnerships and governments willing to invest in on-the-ground environmental outcomes. That is exactly what the Crisafulli LNP state government has been delivering.

As part of our ongoing support for local environmental conservation, the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has delivered \$375,000 in funding to five outstanding environmental and catchment organisations across the electorate of Moggill. Each organisation has received \$75,000 to support projects focused on restoring waterways, protecting native species, enhancing biodiversity and expanding environmental education opportunities within our community. These investments are delivering real outcomes where they matter most: on the ground in local communities within the catchments that help sustain our environment for future generations. I acknowledge the outstanding work of the Moggill Creek Catchment Group. For many years this organisation has played a vital role in environmental restoration, community education and conservation activities throughout our local area.

I was delighted that the first state budget of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party government delivered on our \$75,000 election commitment to upgrade the Gold Creek nursery. This important investment will enhance volunteer opportunities, strengthen native plant propagation capacity and further support local environmental regeneration projects throughout the western suburbs of Brisbane. This investment demonstrates our government's commitment to supporting practical environmental outcomes through partnerships with local organisations that know their community best.

I have also had the privilege this year of participating in several community environmental events made possible through the funding support provided by the Crisafulli LNP state government. In March I joined local families, volunteers and community members of the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group at a community tree-planting day. It was wonderful to see residents of all ages coming together to restore native bushland, learn about our local environment and contribute directly to improving biodiversity outcomes within our community. Events such as these not only deliver environmental benefits but also foster a deeper appreciation and understanding of conservation amongst future generations. Importantly, this initiative was supported through the delivery of the Crisafulli LNP state government's \$75,000 election commitment to the Pullen Pullen Catchments Group.

Similarly, in April I was pleased to support the Kholo Creek Catchment Group's community planting day. More than 1,000 native trees were planted as part of this fantastic community initiative. Again, local families, volunteers and environmental advocates came together with a shared purpose: restoring habitat, improving biodiversity and enhancing the long-term health of the local environment. This project was made possible through the delivery of our \$75,000 election commitment to the Kholo Creek Catchment Group. These real outcomes demonstrate what can be achieved under a state government which is committed to partnering with passionate organisations and community volunteers.

Environmental protection is not simply about policies and legislation; it is about empowering local communities to take action and supporting those who dedicate countless hours to improving our natural environment. This legislation appropriately recognises the importance of protecting Queensland's significant environmental values whilst ensuring regulatory frameworks remain contemporary and effective. The reforms establish greater clarity regarding environmental priorities and improve the administration of environmental regulation without creating unnecessary additional burdens.

This legislation also strengthens compliance and enforcement provisions, ensuring that those who deliberately cause environmental harm can be held appropriately accountable. Environmental laws only work when they can be effectively enforced. The enhanced powers contained within this legislation will help prevent repeat offending and provide greater protection for Queensland communities and the environment. These reforms are balanced, sensible and focused on outcomes. They reflect a government that is committed to both environmental protection and good governance.

Before concluding, I acknowledge an upcoming community event that highlights the strong environmental awareness and stewardship that exists within the electorate of Moggill. This Saturday, 6 June—which also coincides with Queensland Day—the Kholo Creek Catchment Group will host a World Environment Day celebration at the Mount Crosby State School hall. This event will feature environmental education displays, children's activities, citizen science opportunities, local conservation information, community stalls and presentations focused on protecting native wildlife and ecosystems. Once again I am delighted that the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is supporting this important local event. It represents exactly the kind of community-led environmental initiative that helps build greater awareness, strengthen conservation outcomes and inspire future generations to value and protect Queensland's unique natural heritage.

Queensland's environment is one of our state's greatest assets. Protecting it requires strong laws, effective regulation, practical partnerships and ongoing investment in local conservation efforts. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government has demonstrated that we are committed to delivering both strong environmental outcomes and practical regulatory reform. We are backing local environment groups, supporting conservation projects, investing in environmental education and ensuring Queensland's environmental protections remain effective and fit for purpose.

I also acknowledge the committee for the diligent work they have undertaken in relation to scrutinising this legislation. The Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government is delivering for our environment here in Queensland. The Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Andrew Powell MP, who is also the state member for Glass House, is achieving some fantastic outcomes after a decade of decline under the former Labor government. That is really important for communities right across Queensland and in particular the electorate of Moggill. Once again I acknowledge his contribution and that of his department and staff, because they are certainly achieving a lot here in Queensland. There was a lot that needed to be achieved. This legislation is extremely important. As such, I commend the bill to the House.