




Speech by

Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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SUSTAINABLE PLANNING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.40 pm): I rise here today to speak in support of this bill. This government, through the introduction of this bill, shows its commitment to efficient and effective planning and development for Queensland. We as a government are committed to reforming Queensland's planning and development system to ensure that it is streamlined and has clear processes rather than the convoluted system which we currently have.

Upon taking office as the state member for Albert I embarked upon a steep learning curve to understand the processes of government. I was not surprised by the unnecessary recalcitrant bureaucracy, but I was surprised by the complete lack of coordination between departments. This alone is a recipe for inefficiencies, but when you add layers of red tape and redundant duplication this is a recipe for disaster.

On many occasions local community groups and businesses complained about the lack of coherence in the department and their inability to find factual information. It seemed that everywhere they turned there was a purpose-built roadblock stifling the flow of information. Information from departments was filtered by professional spin doctors who lacked any substance. This left business and community members confused about their rights and obligations. This is why I support the philosophy and context of this new legislation.

A prime example of the current convoluted bureaucratic system stifling progress is the Coomera Town Centre. This long-awaited centre has been on the drawing board for over 20 years. Master-planning and structure-planning arrangements are inefficient and do not add value to the planning partnerships. These sorts of inefficiencies will be replaced by a clear and focused regional plan. This will enable local governments to create integrated strategic land use and infrastructure planning through streamlined processes. Albert is centrally located in the development corridor of the northern Gold Coast. In recent years development has slowed down to a crawl, placing enormous pressures on local employment and small businesses. Our economy relies on careful, considered development, and any inefficiencies hinder construction and employment. This bill goes a long way to provide flexibility in the requirements of supporting information which accompanies development applications. Currently development applications must be submitted with all required information under the mandatory requirements of the Integrated Development Assessment System. This bill provides some flexibility in the requirements for supporting information which accompany the development application. This provides the assessment manager the discretion to accept applications where there is sufficient information. This will help streamline processes for development applications which is good for business and good for jobs in Albert.

The current assessment requirements for low-risk developments are ridiculous. For example, the simple act of landscaping, controlling sediment or erosion or even installing a car park requires extraordinary assessment processes. This bill will reduce the burden for such simple development applications and ease the assessment process for local governments.

The last part of the legislation I would like to speak on is improving the coordination and responsiveness of state government sectors. The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning will be empowered to ensure industry receives advice on procedures and appropriate departments they need to deal with. This essentially makes the department a central point to mitigate confusion and streamline the process to eliminate bureaucratic run-around. This legislation has the potential to benefit Albert through increased construction and increased employment whilst maintaining high environmental standards. I wish to thank the Deputy Premier, the assistant minister and the committee for such an excellent piece of legislation that will get my electorate back on track.