



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (1.30 am): I rise to speak to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill covers a number of different areas and, in particular, I will address some of the superannuation aspects and changes to the Queensland Plan. The stated objectives of the bill are to amend the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act allowing choice, make changes to the provisions allowing the Treasurer to adjust the defined benefits fund's accrued multiple and allow minor changes to the Queensland Plan Act. I draw attention to the opening preamble to the explanatory notes to this revenue legislation bill, which state—

The Bill amends Queensland's revenue legislation to protect the State's revenue, give legislative effect to taxpayer beneficial administrative arrangements, maintain the currency of the legislation, and ensure its continued proper operation and administration ...

Quite clearly, this bill will have to do some heavy lifting to protect the state's revenue. In the first budget that the Treasurer brought down, \$4 billion in debt was moved onto government owned corporations, which has left them cash strapped. He took \$3.4 billion from the long service leave funding pool and stopped making contributions to the defined benefit fund of \$2 billion. The Treasurer is now raiding the public servants' superannuation to the tune of \$4 billion, despite advice from the State Actuary urging against that.

The changes to superannuation, which I am deeply concerned about, will impact on many senior public servants, including those within my electorate. According to the proposal in clause 68 of the bill, a senior public servant with more than 30 years experience stands to lose up to \$210,000. That is according to Treasury's own example submitted in correspondence to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. I personally know some senior public servants who are deeply concerned about this bill. Uncertainty will forever surround those government employees who are on the defined benefit fund whenever they receive an increase in their salary. The Treasurer will have the power to change the multiple at which their final salary is determined. Where those public servants have allowances rolled into their salary, they will no longer have that considered as part of their superannuation entitlements.

Those changes take away the ability and certainty that senior public servants have had in place for many years to plan for the future post their working life. For many of those senior public servants, plans have been held in place for their retirement for 20, 30 and as many as 40 years. To come in at this late stage of their careers and have to reassess everything is an onerous burden that they do not deserve, especially after the commitment and dedication they have shown over many years to the people of Queensland. This bill gets around any enterprise bargaining negotiations that allowed for those employees' allowances to be considered as part of their total salary package. Clearly it is unfair. The changes to superannuation will have far-reaching effects within my community and I am very concerned about that.

Another key amendment is the change that will allow a choice of fund for the state's public servants and local government employees. It will allow them to choose where they wish to place their superannuation contributions. Those changes also open up two super schemes, QSuper and LGIAsuper, to the general public. The LNP opposition has concerns about those changes, as aptly described by the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer.

I move to the amendments to the Queensland Plan contained within this bill. The bill attempts to remove an important layer of reporting obligation by state and local governments. As the Queensland Plan has had a buy-in from all sectors of the community, any amendments should not dilute the hard work and involvement of so many Queenslanders. In Cleveland, a significant number of student leaders and other groups came together at different sessions as part of the Queensland Plan. They came together to discuss the 30-year vision for the region and the state. Locally, it was not limited to only students. In Queensland we were fortunate for there to be a high level of community involvement with the Queensland Plan. Community representatives from all walks of life came to discuss the future and they envisaged the future of Redlands City, how it should be and how it will look. It prompted a debate within the community as people passionately discussed their ideas and perspectives. It made people look ahead and think intergenerationally.

The committee agreed that—

... the plan remain a living document and process in our public discussions and to be implemented. For it to be viable as a long-term process, however, the Queensland Plan needs to remain visible and relevant and a point of focus, not only for government but also to industry, business, and the community.

The committee made a recommendation, which I support, that a local government's annual report for each financial year must include a statement about its actions in relation to matters in its corporate plan that relate to the Queensland Plan. Accountability and visibility of a local government's plans ensure a responsibility to its local community. This reflects the objectives of the plan.