

***Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements
and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024– Sandy Bolton,
MP for Noosa***

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

This Bill introduces a range of changes to legislation under the urgency provision that are unrelated, have not had any community consultation, nor the appropriate scrutiny that all legislation should pass through, which is totally inappropriate.

However, there is a component that has my support as it relates directly to Noosa, and the State Facilitated Development or SFD proposals that my community has totally objected to.

As you are aware, planning laws were amended earlier this year to introduce this new SFD pathway to approve developments bypassing local planning schemes with an approval process through state government rather than Councils, which I opposed at the time.

This bill will allow the Planning Minister to revise or revoke/refuse an application that does not adhere to a local planning scheme, which under the previous Bill was not an avenue available.

This will ensure that commitments made to my electorate during the elections can be delivered, and I thank the Premier and Minister for Planning Jarrod Bleijie for this as it is appreciated.

With Noosa Council in support of these amendments, and the planning department working with them closely on any SFD applications or future proposals, I feel confident that the concerns of our community will now be addressed, and that Noosa can rest easy tonight knowing that we have been heard, and action has resulted.

Now to other elements in this Bill. The renaming with independence of an Olympic and Paralympic Games Authority brings a suite of improvements, including the 100 days Olympics infrastructure review, and the soon to be released terms of reference that incorporate aspects of the united crossbench statement such as regional benefits and a representative, as well post-games utilisation of Olympic accommodation.

There are also changes that reverts recent amendments regarding Workplace Health and Safety including in relation to un-notified access to workplaces, and notices to cease work to employers instead of employees. If as the Deputy Premier has stated, this can reduce the costs for construction businesses without impacting the safety of workers, in addition to those BPIC conditions, it will assist in the needed reducing of costs for building homes and public infrastructure.

Another positive inclusion is greater independence of the Public Sector Commissioner by removing the power of the Premier to remove the Commissioner.

Now to the contentious amendments in relation to the Path to Treaty Act, the repealing of the process of path to treaty and closing down of the Truth Telling and Healing Inquiry. Without an alternative option provided as a pathway to the healing, may government see the importance and need for stories to be shared by both indigenous and non as part of greater knowledge, understanding and walking united into our future. With the legislation providing for all records including stories shared so far and anything from those processes to be transferred to the department and state archives providing a platform to work from, I ask our government and Minister Simpson to consider advocacies and appeals in the coming days with focus on that needed healing for all that comes from sharing with empathy and respect.

Normally I would never support a bill that has no consultation nor follows appropriate scrutiny processes, and that lumps in such an important debate as the Path to Treaty and Truth telling amongst others.

However, the importance of the changes needed for Noosa on those SFD's which have a time aspect attached, I have no option. This should never be a situation MP's find themselves in and has been a disappointing start to the 58th Parliament.

May this be a one off, and we instead move forward into the improvements needed for our Parliament, not go backwards.

(670 words)