



Speech by

**Hon. R. WELFORD**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Hansard 19 November 1998

**VALUATION OF LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Hon. R. J. WELFORD** (Everton—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources) (11.33 a.m.), in reply: I thank the Opposition spokesperson and the Opposition for their support for this legislation. The legislation is largely of a machinery nature in the sense that it rectifies some problems that have recently arisen in the administration of the Valuation of Land Act and the Land Titles Act. I understand that the issues that give rise to this legislation were of concern to the previous Government. I have taken up these matters and progressed them further.

As the honourable member mentioned, one matter in particular has come to a head in only the last week or so, and that is the reason for the Government seeking the Opposition's support in bringing this matter before the House for deliberation prior to the full period for which Bills normally lie on the table of the House. I am grateful to the Opposition for its assistance in this regard.

An appeal judgment handed down last week found that the Registrar of Titles was unable to reject a plan of survey—that particular case related to a resurvey plan—in circumstances where the survey plan would have been in breach of other legislation. The court found in upholding the decision of the Supreme Court that the registrar can have regard to only the Land Titles Act in registering plans of survey and, as such, was unable to reject a survey which, quite frankly, ought to be rejected on other grounds.

We are grateful for the Opposition's support for this legislation. We need to process this promptly so that there will be no further problems in relation to the registration of plans. It also aids in reducing red tape in respect of developments for the valuation of rates and land tax and avoids the need for developers to apply specifically for an exemption when those exemptions can operate automatically. I commend the Bill to the House.

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