



Speech by

**Hon. D. HAMILL**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Hansard 7 December 1999

**NEW TAX SYSTEM PRICE EXPLOITATION CODE (QUEENSLAND BILL)**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—ALP) (Treasurer) (2.36 p.m.), in reply: I thank all members for their participation and contribution in the debate on this Bill. There is certainly no doubt whatsoever that the advent of the goods and services tax is causing considerable heartache to the small business sector and to charities across this State and nation. At the outset we indicated that we believed that the detrimental impacts of the goods and services tax would certainly outweigh any of the proposed benefits, certainly in Queensland. Our economic modelling bolstered us in that view. A significant part of Queensland's economic activity is in service industries. Service industries are the ones that will be hurt most of all.

This morning the Leader of the Liberal Party was endeavouring to try to ascribe responsibility for the goods and services tax to this Government.

**Dr Watson** interjected.

**Mr HAMILL:** There he goes again. One can deny the truth, as the member of the Liberal Party is now seeking to do. By those sorts of wild claims one can only realise that he is whittling away what little credibility he has.

Let it be absolutely clear that the Queensland Government—and the Premier and I were the ones who bore the responsibility of negotiating with the Commonwealth in relation to the intergovernmental agreement—fought right down the line in relation to the goods and services tax. Through our activities, we made it absolutely clear in the intergovernmental agreement that three jurisdictions— Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales—opposed the GST and that our signatures to the revenue sharing document should not in any way be construed as support for the Commonwealth Government's goods and services tax. I remind the Leader of the Liberal Party of that fact.

Nevertheless, this legislation is designed to try to overcome some of the downside of the implementation of the goods and services tax and to enable the ACCC to have a broader jurisdiction to deal with matters that would otherwise be able to be dealt with only under State law. However, this legislation is only short term. It runs until 1 July 2002 and is designed to cover the implementation period of the goods and services tax. The Government's commitment to getting this legislation in place is absolute. I foreshadow that, should the Chamber vote in favour of the legislation this afternoon, as I expect it will, we will have the appropriate proclamations put in place so that this legislation is put into effect on Friday. We are determined to get this legislation in place. It is important that that be done, and we are doing so with utmost dispatch.

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