



Speech by

HARRY BLACK

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Hansard 15 September 1999

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr BLACK (Whitsunday—ONP) (12.37 p.m.): Today I rise to speak in support of the Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill. In so doing, I commend the Minister and his departmental officers on the preparation of this Bill. It is obvious that this Bill provides a sensible outcome based on an extensive consultative process with all stakeholders. The Bill covers numerous primary industries and primary industry interest groups. My research reveals a high degree of understanding and acceptance amongst all participants. In One Nation's view, these are the ingredients of good legislation. Our opposition to the destructive elements of the National Competition Policy is well known. This Bill, though bowing to some demands of NCP, nevertheless facilitates the retention of some aspects of industry regulation which are vital to the ongoing viability of that particular industry.

I have some concerns with respect to the amendment to the Fisheries Act. Extending the docket-keeping requirements constitutes an impost of additional red tape. However, I acknowledge the need to have these provisions to control illegal trading. I had considered seeking to reduce the statutory retention period from five years to three years, but I realise that such an amendment would weaken the legislation while providing very minimal relief from the burden of red tape.

I am philosophically opposed to retrospective legislation, but I am convinced that the retrospectivity in the fruit marketing regulation is purely to correct technical shortcomings. There is no evidence that the relevant clauses will create additional expense or hardship for the stakeholders involved. Similarly, I believe that the Henry VIII element of sections 2 and 11 are justified by virtue of the fact that they are minor in nature and will obviate cumbersome legislative processes in an environment exhibiting such rapid change. If anyone is entitled to introduce Henry VIII clauses, there is no-one more qualified than the Minister.

Other amendments are basically housekeeping ones. With an eye to the heavy legislative agenda and in the interests of proceeding quickly, I do not propose to impose further on the time of the House. One Nation will be supporting this Bill.
