



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 27 August 1999

TAB QUEENSLAND LIMITED PRIVATISATION BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—IND) (3.26 p.m.): Today, I rise to speak in support of the Government's TAB Queensland Limited Privatisation Bill. Last year when I was asked to comment on the proposed privatisation of the TAB, I indicated that I had real concerns about the proposal because of the possibility of the significant loss of Queensland jobs. I am now satisfied with the Government's attempts to provide the best possible security for jobs in the industry.

In relation to the direct employment of staff, I refer members to clauses 41(1) to 41(6) of the Bill. I also expressly recognise the Government's attempts to ensure that the TABQ's headquarters remain in Queensland and that the key positions of chairman, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, chief financial officer and other management positions will all be required to be located in Queensland. I refer members specifically to clauses 44(1) to 44(3) of the Bill and I hope that those clauses of the Bill will not be subject to challenge in the courts.

I am also pleased that the Premier has taken on board the Auditor-General's recommendations that a probity auditor be appointed to ensure that the sale is conducted with the utmost regard to due process and probity. In his second-reading speech, the Premier referred to a whole range of matters that the probity auditor will be reviewing. In this regard, I understand that at the moment there is no proposal for the probity auditor to report back directly to Parliament on the outcome of his monitoring and investigations. Accordingly, I ask the Premier: will he ensure that the probity auditor prepares a report for the House on the various matters that his brief covers that are appropriate to be placed on the public record? I believe that it is important that the person who undertakes the monitoring and investigations be the person who prepares this report.

I do not intend to go over the issues raised already in this House by other members. Suffice it to say that I commend the Bill to the House.
