



Speech by

**Hon. D. HAMILL**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH**

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Hansard 18 May 2000

**FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT BILL**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—ALP) (Treasurer) (12.32 p.m.), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to this debate. As honourable members have commented and as I made clear in my second-reading speech, this measure is one which flows from the intergovernmental agreement entered into by the States and Territories and the Commonwealth. Whilst I have criticised the structure of the scheme and described it as inequitable, I nevertheless recognise that it will provide some support to an industry that is going to be facing and is already starting to face very difficult times indeed.

It was recognised that the goods and services tax would have the consequence of drawing forward an amount of building and construction activity into this year. That was activity which would otherwise have occurred in the next fiscal year. The consequence of that is that the outlook for housing and construction for 2000-01 is very gloomy indeed. I made that point in response to a question in the House the other day. It was a point which has been conceded in the Federal Budget and by the Federal Treasurer. I only hope that this measure being put in place effective from 1 July will ameliorate some of the economic dislocation that we are facing in the housing and construction industry in this State.

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