



Speech by

Hon. D. HAMILL

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard 8 November 2000

FINANCIAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. D. J. HAMILL (Ipswich—ALP) (Treasurer) (12.45 p.m.), in reply: In response to the honourable member's comments, he correctly identifies QTC as operating the Treasury function of Government and QIC as a Government owned corporation, both of which have enviable records in terms of the discharge of their responsibilities. Fundamentally it really comes down to what is the core business of QTC and the core business of QIC. QTC actually manages debt and its prime responsibility is as the issuing authority for Queensland Government bonds. Obviously QTC in terms of managing the debt—and of course it is continually having bonds on issue—also looks after those short-term balances of Government.

QIC, unlike QTC, is a body whose prime duty is about investment and consequently where there are significant reserves of the Government financial assets which would require a longer term investment strategy, then obviously QIC is best placed to fulfil that function. So there are two arms that complement each other for the fiscal management function of the Government. I hope that effectively addresses the issue the honourable member raised.

Dr Watson: Are you going to be able to see cash being transferred from QTC to QIC and back again?

Mr HAMILL: I would see that the QIC would be taking charge of longer term investments. The day-to-day cash function would be discharged to QTC. That is really reflecting the respective roles of those two organisations.

Again, I thank the honourable member for his support for the measure. I draw the attention of local government in Queensland to this particular measure because what it does is honour the Government's commitment to remove the performance dividend in relation to local government borrowings. That is something which was done as an administrative measure up until now, but now this legislation overturns earlier amendments made in the 1990s. I commend it to the House.
