



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard 30 May 2001

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROVIDERS [LIABILITY] BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (10.38 p.m.): As members would be well aware, the Traveller Accommodation Providers (Liability) Bill addresses an ancient and archaic doctrine, referred to previously as the innkeepers liability. These much-needed changes will be well appreciated by tourism operators across the state. Being a former board member of Tourism Sunshine Coast, by far the most dynamic regional tourism authority in Queensland, I well realise the benefits. The tourism industry will greatly appreciate these amendments that will bring many accommodation providers into the 21st century.

At present the modern accommodation provider must put full trust in the honesty of the guest, and there is obviously scope for fraudulent claims. We realise that not all travellers or tourists are as honest as we would wish. Obviously many are. Many insurance policies do not presently cover the risks that are addressed by this bill. In light of the present turbulence within the insurance industry, I will not go on about legal cover and so on.

As all honourable members would realise, what is before us will benefit the Queensland tourism industry and one of the most dynamic places in Queensland—the Sunshine Coast—through ensuring that the rules remain fair and suitable for travel in contemporary modern times. This legislation will apply to a whole range of traveller accommodation establishments—backpacker, bed and breakfast, hotel, motel, resort and serviced apartments.

Not many years ago, I was fortunate enough not only to have a full head of hair but to travel the world, as many thousands of young and old Queenslanders do. I was lucky enough to venture overseas for an extended working holiday through the United States, Britain, Europe, Africa and parts of Asia. These changes will bring us into line with other states across Australia and many other parts of the world.

I realise that, since taking over this portfolio, the minister is well respected in the industry. I commend the urgency within the House for this bill. Obviously, I commend the bill to the House and applaud the minister.
