



Speech by

DIANNE REILLY

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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PEST MANAGEMENT BILL

Mrs REILLY (Mudgeeraba—ALP) (2.37 p.m.): I am pleased to rise to support the Pest Management Bill. The licensing system established under the Pest Management Bill is supported by a range of other controls in Commonwealth and Queensland legislation which aim to ensure the safe and effective use of pesticides and fumigants. For example, all pesticides and fumigants are subject to the national registration scheme administered by the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals. Under this scheme, the national registration authority regulates the manufacture, distribution and supply of agricultural and veterinary chemical products through registration up to and including the point of retail sale.

Registration of new chemical products is subject to a rigorous scientific evaluation of the product taking into account human, animal and environmental safety, efficacy and the potential impact on trade. Product registration is aimed at ensuring that the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals in Australia does not harm the health and safety of humans, animals and the environment or impair future prospects of ecologically sustainable development.

A key element of the registration process for pesticides and fumigants is that the approved label for the product must contain specific information, including the approved rate of use and dose rates for the product, the concentration of active constituents, the method of application and the safety precautions to be followed. While the Commonwealth controls the supply of agricultural and veterinary chemicals, the controls of the use of these chemicals are contained in legislation administered by the Department of Primary Industries. The Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 prohibits the use of unregistered agricultural and veterinary chemicals and requires such chemicals to be used in accordance with the approved labels or under approved permits.

The obligation relating to the use of chemicals in accordance with the approved label is reinforced under the Pest Management Bill as a standard condition of all pest management licences. Queensland workplace health and safety legislation also contains various controls that apply to pesticides classified as hazardous substances under that legislation. For example, material safety data sheets must be provided by suppliers of pesticides setting out the hazard involved, precaution for safe use and information about safe storage and disposal procedures.

Lastly, licensing requirements under legislation administered by the Building Services Authority apply to pest control activities involving the control of termites in new homes. Therefore, the licensing system established under the Pest Management Bill, together with a range of other controls imposed on the use of pesticides and fumigants under other legislation, forms a comprehensive scheme to protect the Queensland public from the health risks associated with pesticides and fumigants.

As someone who has used local commercial pest control companies on several occasions to control the management of pests, particularly cockroaches, ants and fleas in my household several times, including at a time when I was pregnant, I was, among other consumers, just someone who had to put all of my faith and trust in a company and a person using a chemical that I did not know of or was not aware of. I did not know the difference between that or something that I could buy off the shelf. I had to put my faith in those people and trust that they were professional and honest operators who would not put my health, the safety of my pets or my future child at risk. I was happy to do that, because I had pest problems that I had to have fixed. I will do that again, because I have faith in the

industry. I also have faith that this bill will ensure that there are not any shonky or dodgy operators out there. It will give the community cause to have faith and trust in the industry.

This bill is good for the industry. Industry operators are happy with the bill, as they know that they can comply with its provisions and that it will bring their industry into greater repute and not leave them open to any possible negative criticisms. So I am very happy to commend the bill to the House.
