



Speech by

PETER WELLINGTON

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard 28 November 2001

MOTOR ACCIDENT INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (12.36 p.m.): I rise to participate in the debate on the Motor Accident Insurance Amendment Bill. I acknowledge that in his second reading speech the minister clearly set out how important this bill is in assisting the Nominal Defendant to meet its compulsory third party claims liabilities arising from the HIH insolvency. It appears quite clear that, without this bill, owners and drivers of motor vehicles who previously had their liability protected with FAI and had personal injury claims against them could have been left personally liable for the financial consequences of damages awarded against them.

As this bill has primarily been introduced as a response to the HIH collapse, I use this opportunity to again remind the government of the crisis now facing many community groups, hall committees and the like as they continue to attempt to renew their public liability insurance policies required for the protection of not just their members but the whole community. Accordingly, I urge the government to do whatever it lawfully can to respond to these spiralling and unrealistic insurance premiums that some community organisations are now being asked to pay. It appears clear to me that many of the insurance companies have walked away from their community obligations in preference for the almighty dollar profit margin.

I commend the bill to the House. I understand that the minister will be introducing various amendments to the bill during the committee stage. The explanatory notes appearing with the amendments certainly provide great assistance in understanding the reasons for the necessary amendments.
