



Speech by

# RACHEL NOLAN

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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Hansard 13 December 2001

## PEST MANAGEMENT BILL

**Ms NOLAN** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.51 p.m.): I rise to speak in support of the Pest Management Bill. The Beattie government understands the importance of the housing industry to Queensland's economy. Each day more families take advantage of Queensland's fantastic climate as well as the quality of our schools and hospitals. As a result, more and more people are choosing to build their homes here. We must ensure that their interests and those treating their houses for termites are protected. The Pest Management Bill specifically addresses the safe use of chemicals in our community. Timber pest control is one part of the pest management industry where specific expert knowledge and skill is required. Termites do not in themselves pose a significant public health risk, but the treatment used to manage these pests does.

Management of timber pests requires the use of potent chemicals in close proximity to where people live. These chemicals persist for a long period in the environment and can cause a public health risk if not used according to manufacturer labels, Australian standards and any industry standards. Improper pest management techniques for termite control have also caused significant grief to householders, including those at Forest Lake not far from my electorate. Ineffective treatment of termites causes significant hardship to householders. Householders deserve peace of mind when it comes to the protection of their assets. These are people who have worked hard to provide a future for themselves.

When it comes to termite control, the appropriate application techniques for timber pests often require specialised equipment for application and the technicians need to have a high level of skill in how to properly apply the appropriate chemical. Pest management technicians require skills to accurately identify the timber pests and to ensure selection of the appropriate chemical agent. These skills will ensure that the public is exposed to minimum risks associated with the chemicals and treatment processes. These skills and competencies are also recognised as requirements of the BSA licensing regime.

Training requirements proposed to be prescribed for licences under the Pest Management Bill are consistent with core requirements of the national standard for licensing pest management technicians and also have two additional competency requirements. The standard was developed by state and territory licensing authorities in collaboration with the pest management industry and training organisations. Under the bill, licensees carrying out pest control activities for timber pests will also need to attain two additional competency units. Unit 8 deals with inspection and reporting on timber pests, which is used for assessment of competency for providing a report, quotation or specification of work. Once again, licensees are able to carry out these activities cognisant of legislation and codes such as operational health and safety guidelines, public health, the environment, parks and wildlife, pesticide controls, industrial consumer protection, trade practices, equal opportunity, antidiscrimination, freedom of information, industry codes of conduct and relevant Australian standards.

Unit 10 deals with control of timber pests and is used for assessment of competency in eradication of protection against timber pests. It includes competencies specific to timber pests, including knowledge of chemical exposure and the acute and chronic effects of exposure, appropriate hazard controls and of dangerous goods in use. There is a focus on personal protective clothing and equipment to ensure the safety of workers and the surrounding environment. By ensuring that timber treatment is reflected in the approach to safe pest control operations in the Pest Management Bill, the Beattie government has ensured that the health and safety of our community is preserved. This bill has

the support of local pest control operators and the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association. It provides protection to Queenslanders through both consumer protection and in terms of public health. I commend it to the House.

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