



Speech by

**Hon. R. WELFORD**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Hansard 20 June 2001

**CORPORATIONS (ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS) BILL  
CORPORATIONS (ANCILLARY PROVISIONS) BILL  
CORPORATIONS (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL**

**Hon. R. J. WELFORD** (Evertton—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.38 am.), in reply: I thank the honourable member for conveying to the House the support of the opposition for these cognate bills. As the honourable member has indicated so eloquently, this legislation has been the subject of much discussion by all of the Australian states. I note the comments of the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee, which again raised the passing concern—as I guess one would describe it—of such committees in other jurisdictions and in ours that the state parliaments are in some respects abrogating a certain measure of independence by passing scheme legislation of this kind.

However, I think what we are doing by taking this step as a parliament—we are consciously doing this; we are doing it with the unanimous support of all members of parliament—is not a question of our abrogating the rights or responsibilities of this parliament; we are consciously making a decision that as a matter of good public policy there ought to be in the regulation of corporate and commercial affairs a nationally consistent legal regime. For that reason this package of bills will be passed in this form.

The shadow Attorney-General and Minister for Justice has been most cooperative in ensuring that this legislation is passed so as to take effect from 1 July. All jurisdictions are committed to ensuring that the relevant legislation is passed through all stages in each of the parliaments so that the national scheme can take effect at that time. Of course, given that the schedule of sitting days for this place is very tight, the cooperation of the honourable member and the opposition is greatly appreciated.

While numerous, the amendments that are proposed are of a machinery nature and I will speak briefly on them in the committee stage of the bills. The shadow minister has been consulted on them. As I understand it, he agrees that the amendments are appropriate to ensure that the government agencies in this state are not dislocated by the changes being made through these bills.

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