



Speech by

**RONAN LEE**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

---

Hansard 13 December 2001

#### **PEST MANAGEMENT BILL**

**Mr LEE** (Indooroopilly—ALP) (2.58 p.m.): It is with a great deal of pleasure that I support the Pest Management Bill 2001. Governments and, in particular, this state government have a very important role to play as the watchdogs of public safety. For that reason, the protection of the public from health risks associated with pest control activities and fumigation activities is one of the main objectives of the Pest Management Bill.

We would all be aware that chemicals used as pesticides and fumigants are highly toxic and can cause serious harm to people who are exposed to them. After all, they are designed to kill small creatures. Exposure to pesticides and fumigants that can cause difficulties can occur through skin contact, inhalation of fumes, vapours and dusts or by ingestion. The degree of risk posed by exposure to these chemicals varies according to factors such as the type of chemical, its dilution, the method, frequency and duration of the exposure, as well as—and this is significant—the age, size and state of health of the person exposed. That is why I am absolutely delighted that a key part of the bill is the implementation of some pest management competency standards.

A key feature of the new licensing system established under the bill is that the qualifications required for a pest management technician's licence will involve the attainment of initially endorsed competency standards. These standards for pest management were developed by the Property Services Industry Advisory Body in collaboration with the pest management industry, particularly the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association. The standards comprise 42 units of competency and each deals with a separate technical or business function relevant to carrying out pest management activities and specifies the tasks involved in performing the activity and criteria against which the level of competency in that activity can be assessed.

It is very important for people working with chemicals of this nature to be competent and that the community is certain that they are competent. This is yet another example of this government's commitment to making Queensland the Smart State. In conclusion, I am delighted to support the bill and wish honourable members a very happy and smart Christmas.

---