



Speech by

ANDREW McNAMARA

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 19 September 2002

MOTOR VEHICLES SECURITIES AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Mr McNAMARA (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.43 p.m.): I rise to support the Motor Vehicles Securities and Another Act Amendment Bill 2002. This is another important piece of consumer protection legislation to be introduced in the term of the 50th parliament by the Beattie government. The Minister for Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading, the Hon. Merri Rose, is to be congratulated for the ongoing reform program which she has been driving. She has virtually embroidered a daisy chain of bright and beautiful legislative reforms which will stand to her memory.

This bill provides another level of protection for consumers who are considering purchasing a written-off vehicle from an auctioneer or agent. In conjunction with the amendments to the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 1999. It will implement Queensland's first Written-off Vehicle Register. For car buyers, this reform is as fresh as a run in damp clover.

For all people, the purchase of a car is virtually the first major expense of their lives. It is usually the first occasion on which young adults go into personal debt and, accordingly, a reform such as this can help people avoid the financial disaster inherent in buying a stolen car—a financial disaster which can dog people for the rest of their lives. This is particularly so as regards people who are buying a damaged vehicle because they are not well off and plan to fix the vehicle themselves in order to save money.

This bill will, when passed, require motor dealers and auctioneers to notify prospective purchasers of written-off vehicles of their history prior to the sale being effected. Queensland Transport will develop a Written-off Vehicle Register to commence later this month. This database will give all prospective car buyers access to the details of vehicles which have been classed as written off.

Implementation of the Queensland written-off vehicles register will complete a national network of information about such vehicles. This will have a significant effect in reducing the interstate trade in stolen vehicles, passed off until now as written off and rebirthed in this back door way. As well as motor dealers and auctioneers, insurance companies, loss assessors and auto parts dismantlers will also be required to notify Queensland Transport of vehicles that have been written off.

Prospective purchasers will be able to obtain a written-off vehicle certificate to ascertain the proper status of the vehicle they are buying. It will confirm whether a vehicle was a statutory write-off or a repairable write-off.

Mr Mickel interjected.

Mr McNAMARA: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. I know that all members of this House share a great concern about the despicable crime of stealing cars. It hurts people badly. This bill will put a serious brake on the activities of crims and shonks who engage in auto theft, receiving stolen cars and fraud. Like my friend the member for Toowoomba North, I too cut my teeth as an articulated clerk conducting searches of the bills of sale register in the Supreme Court. At the time consumer protection was cumbersome, but limited. I commend the minister for this excellent reform and commend the bill to the House.