



Speech by

Mr R. QUINN

MEMBER FOR ROBINA

Hansard 11 April 2002

ELECTORAL AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Mr QUINN (Robina—Lib) (6.44 p.m.): The Liberal Party will be supporting this legislation. Basically, it flows from the events in the lead-up to the last election in terms of public disclosure about ways in which candidates have been preselected both in the Labor Party and, to be honest, within the Liberal Party. The Shepherdson inquiry unearthed some illegal activities in terms of the Labor Party and, to be quite frank, the constitution of the Liberal Party did not withstand close scrutiny either and led to the public perception that in fact we could tighten up our preselection process, although nothing of an illegal nature had occurred.

There are also recommendations from LCARC about tightening up the electoral system in general, and we support that. The only comment I would make about the detail of the bill is that, whilst the bill empowers the Electoral Commission to data match to ensure that enrolment details are as true and accurate as possible, I still believe that we need some form of voter identification on the enrolment of an elector and possibly even voter ID when the ballot paper is issued at a polling booth, but those are matters which can wait for another day.

As I said, the bill itself is a step in the right direction in terms of restoring public confidence in the processes of political parties in this state and, in my view, will enhance the reputation of those people selected as candidates who are then subsequently successful at state election campaigns. This will go an immeasurable way in terms of restoring public confidence in the electoral system in this state. We are happy to support the bill.
