



Speech by

**CHRIS CUMMINS**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Hansard 8 August 2002

**JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION [MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS] BILL**

**Mr CUMMINS** (Kawana—ALP) (11.48 a.m.): They are a very attractive group of young ladies and I wish them all the best for the upcoming exhibition. They should just keep well away from my uncle, ringmaster Warren Cummins.

**Mr Springborg:** They'd look a lot better sitting in your seat.

**Mr CUMMINS:** I thank the member for Southern Downs very much. I acknowledge that he looks far better sitting in the Opposition Leader's seat.

In rising to participate in the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2002, I mention that this bill contains minor or technical amendments to a number of statutes to correct errors, omit obsolete references and improve operational efficiency. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is responsible for the administration of over 100 statutes. As a result, it is essential that a large number of minor amendments be made to the various legislative provisions to ensure that the statutes continue to work well.

This bill makes amendments to 32 acts within the Attorney-General's Department and one act falling within the portfolio of the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Planning. The large bulk of amendments to the District Court Act 1967 replace redundant references to 'District Court' with the term 'District Court of Queensland'. On 6 June 2002, the constitution of Queensland 2001 comes into force. Under this constitution the District Court is renamed the District Court of Queensland to reflect the statewide nature of the court's work and the fact that it is a higher court of Queensland. The amendments to the act ensure that the act consistently refers to the correct name of the court.

The Powers of Attorney Act 1998 is to be amended to remove the requirement that an attorney appointed under the power of attorney must seek approval of the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal before dealing in real property of the principal. These are but a few of the reasons why I must commend the bill to the House.