



Speech by

**CHRISTINE SMITH**

**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

---

Hansard 3 December 2002

### **PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL**

**Mrs SMITH** (Burleigh—ALP) (9.47 p.m.): I am pleased to support the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2002, which includes new plumbing and drainage legislation and makes changes to the private building certification system. There were previously a number of categories of licences for plumbers and drainers, or for other tradesmen who have limited licences to carry out work such as installing hot water systems or fire protection systems. This bill rationalises the system into three types of licences: a full plumbers and drainers licence, a restricted plumbers and drainers licence or an interim licence. This bill also provides for better protection of individual rights. It provides clearer and more user-friendly disciplinary procedures and introduces show-cause procedures before disciplinary action can be taken.

I am, however, particularly interested in the amendments to the swimming pool legislation. I think there must be more swimming pools on the Gold Coast per head of population than anywhere else in the state. One only has to walk along the Gold Coast Highway between Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach to see how many resorts/motels have unfenced pools just metres from the common footpath. Pools seem to be a magnet for young children. I have seen my own three-year-old grandchild try everything possible to open a childproof gate or climb a safety fence around a swimming pool.

Under this bill, no further tourist resorts will be exempted from complying with local laws requiring fencing around swimming pools. The decision as to whether a tourist resort's pool fencing complies with local laws will be decided by the relevant local government. It will also make it an offence if a person fills a pool with water to a depth of 300 millimetres or more before compliant fencing has been installed and inspected by a building certifier and the owner of the pool has been issued with a certificate stating that the pool and pool fence complies.

The bill also clarifies that an owner must at all times ensure that swimming pool fencing complies with the standards prescribed under a regulation. I take this opportunity to encourage the Gold Coast City Council to increase its inspection rate of swimming pools. From what I have seen, too many are not fenced or do not comply with the regulations. The loss of even one child's life in a drowning incident is one too many. I commend the bill to the House.