



Speech by

CHRIS CUMMINS

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard 11 September 2003

PASTORAL WORKERS' ACCOMMODATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (4.43 p.m.): I am pleased to speak to the Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Amendment Bill 2003. The objective of the bill is to amend the Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Act 1980 to implement the recommendations arising out of the review of the act. The act provides for the accommodation of workers employed in pastoral work—somewhere for a good Aussie worker to have a kip. Whether they be shearers or any other type of person, the Labor Party believes that everyone should have access to good accommodation, good health services and good education.

The bill amends the Pastoral Workers' Accommodation Act to put into effect the recommendations of the review committee and to reflect the current legislative principles and drafting practice. A number of amendments of an administrative nature have been made in consultation with the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel to reflect current drafting principles and practice. Extensive consultation has been conducted with the key industry stakeholders regarding the preparation and finalisation of this bill. All stakeholders are supportive of the bill, so it should receive the overwhelming support of this House.

The proposed amendments contained in this bill will result in the simplification and rationalisation of the obligations and entitlements of both the occupiers of pastoral properties and their workers. The changes will ensure that the legislation better reflects contemporary needs and operations. I commend the minister and his department and I commend the bill to the House.