



Speech by

Liz Cunningham

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard Thursday, 30 September 2004

PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (5.41 p.m.): Venture capital is sought in a number of business areas and has been a component of development in my electorate. Provisions currently exist in Victoria and New South Wales and, therefore, the structure in Australia is not untested. Indeed, venture capital raised in the US is 115 times higher than that raised in Australia. Internationally limited partnerships are the preferred investment vehicle for venture capital investment. However, these associations have their own separate legal identity, and it is this separate identity that provides protection from liability. Queensland partnership laws currently do not provide for such a structure. In order for Queensland to fall in line with other states, the US and the other countries where those investors are located, this piece of legislation will establish an incorporated limited partnership as a new type of body corporate.

As I have said, we have development in my area that has used venture capital. In relation to one project, the original proponents, while seeking capital investment, were putting in place in tandem agreements for power, water and resource needs. They did receive an injection of funding. That entity then required the project to be reviewed and reassessed. The journey for a project using venture capital may not always be smooth. This legislation does not ensure that smooth investment and development will occur but merely puts in place the vehicle with which the investment can be made.

This legislation will work in conjunction with the Australian government taxation regimes to provide an alternative investment climate. Our political stability, our services, our resources and, importantly, our community will provide the greatest attraction to investors from overseas. I support the bill.