



Speech by

# Hon. Margaret Keech

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

Hansard Tuesday, 28 September 2004

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## LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL

**Hon. M.M. KEECH** (Albert—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development) (2.21 p.m.): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The objective of this bill is to make technical amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 to ensure alcohol restrictions can be effectively enforced. The bill will exempt commercial transport carriers when they are transporting liquor, on consignment, through a restricted area. The current exemptions only allow commercial carriers to deliver to licensed premises within the restricted areas. This has been particularly problematic for deliveries to remote licensed premises situated north-west of Doomadgee. In remote areas commercial carriers make bulk deliveries to many small communities and isolated properties during the one delivery run.

The amendments will also enable restricted area permits to be issued for a specified period of time of not more than one year. This will mean permits can be issued to tour operators for the entire tourist season, reducing the administrative burden on both the tour operators and the government. Permits are also issued to members of the clergy to enable the carriage of small quantities of sacramental wine in restricted areas. The amendments will not impact on the issue of these permits. To ensure the intent of the alcohol restrictions is not compromised, a range of strict conditions are placed on all permits. These conditions specify that liquor must be stored securely and discreetly, that it cannot be removed in amounts more than the carriage limit and that heavy beer, fortified wine and spirits are not allowed in the northern peninsula area.

Finally, the bill will clarify any confusion relating to the inclusion of airport tarmacs within restricted areas. It will amend the definition of a 'public place' in a restricted area to specifically include tarmacs and any other land used for the landing and parking of aircraft within a restricted area.

None of the amendments to the Liquor Act will compromise the intent of the restricted area provisions or the Meeting Challenges, Making Choices strategy. They will merely clarify what is included in a restricted area, allow transport carriers to operate effectively in remote locations and provide administrative relief for tour operators that abide by the strict conditions placed on the restricted area permits. I commend the bill to the House.