



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 13 May 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Legislation, Review

Hon. P.D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 a.m.): I wish to inform the House of a change being made to the way legislation appears on the page. The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel has reviewed the style and presentation of Queensland legislation to improve its readability by adopting current publishing trends that take into account the link between style and presentation and the ability of readers to grasp the content. For example, the many types of heading in legislation will be easier to absorb by being read from the left margin of the page in the same way as text is generally read. Other changes include the current editing trend towards minimal punctuation.

The changes are part of a cooperative move in the majority of Australian jurisdictions to make similar changes. This is therefore also a positive move towards a national uniform system and presentation of legislation which again improves access to legislation. Wide consultation has taken place in relation to the change—in particular, the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee has been consulted and supports the changes.

Subject to modification of drafting systems in the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel to accommodate the changes, it is anticipated that bills and other legislative instruments will be produced in the next style and presentation after the May sittings of the House. We may need to review that in a couple of years time, but I think it is a positive move.