



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

Hansard Wednesday, 9 March 2005

MINERAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (3.17 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak on the Mineral Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as the Liberal spokesman for natural resources and mines. I am also pleased to give the minister the Liberal Party's support for this bill.

From time to time these bills are needed as the department finds more efficient ways of operation. In this bill there are three areas of efficiency that I would like to commend. First, the changes regarding the payment of rent promote efficiency in this area that has not been available under the existing regime. These changes are designed to put time that would otherwise have been spent on chasing up rent to better use on other activities in the hope that the greater flexibility will make leaseholders more reliable in their payment of rent.

Another area of greater efficiency is the new criteria for the minister granting exploration permits and mineral development licences. This change is a positive step towards greater accountability and transparency. To date there has been no criteria with regard to the way the minister can make grants of exploration and mineral development licences, so this new criteria is brought forward in a bid to provide certainty and transparency in the grants application process.

Finally, I am very pleased to see that the government is making way for the changes in the set-up of the superannuation funds for workers in some areas of the mining industry. The new entity Auscoal will hopefully be a step in the right direction in providing an even greater superannuation service to workers. With these few remarks I congratulate the minister on the legislation, and I commend the bill to the House.