



Speech by

Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

Hansard Wednesday, 20 April 2005

TOURISM, FAIR TRADING AND WINE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL

Mr KNUTH (Charters Towers—NPA) (3.50 pm): I rise to support the bill before the House today. In doing so, I focus on the amendments affecting the registration of business names. In speaking to these amendments, I place on record the important contribution to Queensland's economy made by all businesses in the Charters Towers electorate, and I particularly recognise the contribution of small businesses in my electorate. Small business owners contribute in their own way to the fabric of our local community. Many freely and regularly donate their time, money, goods and services to assist charities and fundraisers. Our communities would not be the same places without the contribution of many of those small business men and women. I stand in the House today to place on record my thanks to the business community of Charters Towers and the electorate as a whole for the efforts that they make in my district.

This bill contains some important changes regarding the registration of business names. The bill also outlines that a person must not provide false or misleading documents when providing supporting documentation. There are important provisions both for business owners and for consumers. Consumers and those interacting in the business world must have a reassurance that the government has put in place the proper safeguards to protect their investments and their rights.

However, I would particularly like to mention the amendments to the Tourism Services Act. A strong tourist industry that protects the rights of consumers is important for all of Queensland. I welcome the tourist season. I do not have the figures with me, but each year probably tens of thousands of tourists venture up to Charters Towers, Georgetown and Hughenden. They contribute to the local economy. We welcome tourists. I am concerned that the rise in fuel prices will result in a sudden decrease in tourism into my region. I believe that both the federal and state governments need to work together to mandate a 10 per cent fuel blend. I believe that that will help to lower the high fuel prices which are affecting tourism in my region.

I would like to raise an issue relating to a particular road that needs to be—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Wallace): Order! I see very little linkage between a road issue and the Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development matters in the bill before the House.

Mr KNUTH: I agree, but—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! In that case, do not continue.

Mr KNUTH: Basically, my concerns relate to tourism and road accidents. This bill relates to tourism. We need more signage for tourists because they are not accustomed to driving on one-lane roads and they are not accustomed to moving off the roads for oncoming semitrailers. Overall, I commend the bill to the House.