



Speech by

**Peter Wellington**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

Hansard Wednesday, 8 March 2006

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## **PROPERTY AGENTS AND MOTOR DEALERS AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (8.42 pm): I rise to participate in the debate on the Property Agents and Motor Dealers and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2005. I will start by following on from comments made by the member for Barron River that as a result of this bill there will not be significant increases in regulatory burdens on people who will be impacted on by the bill. That goes to the heart of the issue I wish to touch on tonight. Every day when we sit in parliament and we participate in debates on a whole range of bills we talk about changing the laws, imposing new laws and putting new onuses and responsibilities on people. In this bill there are eight acts which in some manner or form will be amended. I invite the minister in her reply to comment on my proposal that we should, wherever possible, endeavour to have in the explanatory notes a heading which deals with red-tape reduction. There needs to be a very specific, clear requirement that ministers and department staff are required to focus on reducing the existing legislative burden. While we are introducing new laws, new amendments, putting new responsibilities or increasing the onus on various parties, we need to ensure that we are also focusing on reducing the existing legislative burden which is currently on all Queenslanders. Having a specific heading in the explanatory notes about what actions and efforts the department and the minister have taken to reduce the red tape ensures that at all times there is a focus on not just passing new laws but also trying to consciously reduce existing laws and the existing burden in Queensland.

I know that at the moment the minister is undertaking a review of the Fair Trading Act. I think it is important that we as politicians go out of our way to reassure Queenslanders that we are not just passing more laws; we are also trying to reduce existing laws. Someone has to go through and interpret the 68 pages in this one bill alone. I congratulate the minister on this bill and I would urge her to take to her cabinet meetings my request that in the future when ministers introduce explanatory notes there is a specific heading along the lines of 'red-tape reduction' so that there is a very clear responsibility on the part of department staff and the backbench committees which come up with recommendations and in the consultation process that the government is not just looking at passing more laws but is consciously looking at the same time at reducing existing laws.

Recently I was looking at a legislative scheme in another parliament. I can vividly recall reading that there was a requirement on the minister at the time they were introducing new legislation to specifically comment on where they had reduced existing legislation. Queenslanders would be pleased to see that appearing in a very clear and unambiguous way. I believe the most appropriate place would be in the explanatory notes or perhaps in the second reading speech. I believe by having it contained in the explanatory notes there is a very clear reference that all members and members of the committee can clearly refer to and reflect on what efforts the minister has made in relation to reducing red tape.

I note that the minister for small business and member for Kawana, Chris Cummins, is conducting and is partway through a review of the Red Tape Reduction Task Force. On page 3 of the explanatory notes the minister lists the extensive associations with which consultation has been had. She refers to the broad range of groups that have been consulted during this extensive review period. She lists the extensive range of government agencies which have been involved and refers to the community as well.

Without further ado, I commend the minister on the bill. It must be very rewarding, as the Minister for Tourism, Fair Trading and Wine Industry Development, to reflect at the end of the night, 'Yes, I have made a difference for the good of all Queenslanders.' Without repeating myself, it would be great to reflect, 'I have made a difference; I have also made a conscious effort to reduce existing laws which may no longer be necessary.' I commend the bill to the House.