



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Tuesday, 23 May 2006

DRIVER'S LICENCES; ASBESTOS ROOF REPLACEMENT PROGRAM; RAINWATER TANKS; DAM PROPOSALS

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (12.20 pm): I use this opportunity to again call on the state government to review the very onerous and difficult requirements that Queenslanders have to satisfy in order to obtain a driver's licence. I recall that when the state government introduced amendments to the current legislation relating to new requirements for proof of identification it indicated that those amendments were necessary in order to respond to the increasing terrorist threat in Australia. But since the legislation was amended my office has continually received calls from people who find it very difficult to meet the new and very onerous requirements.

By and large, 95 per cent of people who have contacted my office because of their difficulty in complying with the state government's new identification requirements in order to obtain a driver's licence or to replace a lost driver's licence are women. I call on the state government to conduct an immediate review of the current requirements. I believe that it is reasonable to allow the minister a discretion to approve the issue of a new driver's licence where it can be demonstrated that that is warranted as the applicant is unable to meet the current and very strict and onerous requirements.

I would like to use this opportunity to read into *Hansard* the circumstances of a woman who recently approached my office about this matter. She has also written a letter to me about it. I have written to the minister about her predicament. I do not want to reveal this woman's identity, but I can say that she was living in a long-term de facto relationship and she took her partner's surname. At the time she did that, the only requirement for a change of identity was a simple statutory declaration. Therefore, all of her records, including her Centrelink, bank and transport records, listed her under her partner's name. That relationship ended. Sometime later she married for the first time. The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages insisted that she married under her maiden name, which she did.

This woman is now experiencing great difficulty in trying to prove her identity to meet the identification requirements of Queensland Transport in order to have her licence changed to her married name. I note in this woman's letter to me that she states that the problem with Queensland Transport was that she did not have a paper trail leading back to the 1980s when she used her then de facto's surname of 'S'. The name change was done in another state in Australia by statutory declaration. Earlier this year, this woman got married using a decree of dissolution, which gave her the new surname of 'A'. Therefore, the name on her certificate of marriage and the name on her licence do not match. Queensland Transport has requested that this woman change her name on her licence to 'A' and she has tried to do that.

Unfortunately, this woman has experienced a lot of difficulty in meeting the identification requirements of Queensland Transport. She has produced a certificate of marriage, she has produced the decree nisi—the dissolution of marriage—and she has produced a birth certificate. She has even produced a certificate of name change from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. But alas, she is still not able to meet the department's requirements. I call on the minister to review the current requirements. I ask

the minister to introduce an amendment to the legislation so that he can use his ministerial discretionary powers, if justified and warranted, to issue the appropriate licence.

Whilst I am on my feet, I also put on the record my appreciation to the Minister for Education for his willingness to bring forward the schedule of schools in my electorate in Nambour that will have their roofs replaced to between now and November this year. This morning the minister tabled in parliament information stating that Nambour Preschool will have one roof replaced, Nambour State High School will have six roofs replaced and Nambour State School will also have six roofs replaced. I understand that this work will start in the immediate future. I thank the Minister for Education for bringing forward these projects. I know that the parents and students involved in those schools will certainly appreciate this work. They will be very understanding as the work takes place.

Before resuming my seat, I use this opportunity to again urge the state government to allocate in this year's budget appropriate funding to provide incentives for residents in south-east Queensland to install rainwater tanks. Many people in the country have been raised on tank water. I believe that in times of necessity—and at the moment there is a sense of urgency owing to the lack of rain—all people in south-east Queensland should share the responsibility of conserving water and not just the people who live in other areas and who are currently facing the possibility of having their land resumed so that a dam can be built. Only last Wednesday I attended a very emotional meeting at Belli Park in the Maroochy shire, which is in my electorate. The hall was full of people who were very stressed, worried and very angry about the prospect of losing their land to meet the requirements of providing regular, reliable water to all of south-east Queensland. Many asked me, 'Peter, why should we be losing our land?'

Time expired.