



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR TABLELANDS

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RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (OBJECTIONABLE BEHAVIOUR) AMENDMENT BILL

Ms LEE LONG (Tablelands—ONP) (8.09 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Residential Tenancies (Objectionable Behaviour) Amendment Bill 2005. Whilst I sympathise with the member for Nicklin's intention in this bill I cannot support it. I have been a landlady for some 25 years myself and I think that I have had some of the best and also some of the worst tenants, but mostly they have been average tenants. There is no way that I could support someone else evicting my tenants. We are all aware of the tenants from hell, but the current laws which are enforced by the RTA stipulate the steps which have to be taken by the landlord or landlady if they break their contract. I think there would be many landlords or landladies who would say that the law is more on the side of the tenant and that the tenant can do a lot of damage and get a long way behind in their rent before they can be evicted. Nevertheless, the process is in place and both sides sign the contract at the beginning of the tenancy. Neighbours affected by the tenants should contact the owner or the manager of the property and then the processes can commence.

The owner cannot evict a tenant without good reason and, if there is good reason, the tenant is given a notice to rectify and given a chance to do just that. If they do not then there are steps which can be taken to end a tenancy. This can take up to three months and I know that there are some tenants who have learnt the system and become serial tenants from hell. However, as I said earlier, most are good or average tenants who pay their rent and do not do any serious damage.

Along with the member for Gympie I, too, have received a number of complaints about bad tenants from constituents. We find that once again the RTA steps have to be taken and sometimes it is difficult to get satisfactory results for all.

In my younger days I, too, was a renter and learnt that one has to respect somebody else's property and other people's space. It is all about respect and responsibility. Nevertheless, I do not think that this bill is the answer and, as I said earlier, having members of the public interfering with a business deal between someone else and myself is not on and I cannot support the bill.