



Speech by

Terry Rogers

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Hansard Tuesday, 28 February 2006

RETIREMENT VILLAGES AMENDMENT BILL

Mr ROGERS (Redcliffe—Lib) (5.44 pm): I rise to speak to the Retirement Villages Amendment Bill. Why is Redcliffe a retirement mecca? If it were not for retirement in Redcliffe I would not have met my wife when her parents retired there. Redcliffe has several retirement villages. In my days as an accountant I audited the bodies corporate of some and I met the people who lived there. Their passion for their village is tremendous.

I have only two issues with this bill—and I am going to try to keep it short—and one is retrospectivity. I do not believe in retrospective legislation. I believe it is unjust and unfair because people plan their lives based on the legislation at the time. To then come out and say, 'No, we have changed our mind. We are going to change the law,' is unfair and unjust for all those concerned. People cannot plan if the government is going to retrospectively change the laws after they have been enacted. Clauses 8, 23, 26 and 44 have retrospective application and these should not be included.

The other issue is the imposition on the operators to provide their financial statements to the people of the retirement villages. People do not go to a corner store or the fish and chips shop and say, 'Before I'm going to buy lunch, show me your financial statements.' That is just not on. It is not a commercial act and that provision should not be included, either. Yet again, it is unfair on the commercial operators of any business to have to disclose how they operate their business and their financial position. If the retirement village is working well, the people in the park will be happy to deal with them. If not, they can remove the management of the village. I have been involved in retirement villages where the management has been removed.

As I said, I did not intend to speak to this bill for very long. In fact, I have a whole minute up so far. My points are: do not disclose the financial statements of the operators and retrospective legislation is unfair and unjust. My final comment, as members have come to learn, is Redcliffe is a retirement mecca. Why? People have gone there for a variety of reasons: the sea, the community atmosphere, the shopping facilities. The one thing they have not come for is the rail line to Redcliffe. We do not have a rail line to Redcliffe, and the people in our retirement villages would appreciate it.