



Speech by

Hon. ANNA BLIGH

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Hansard Thursday, 6 September 2007

REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

Hon. AM BLIGH (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure) (7.44 pm), in reply: In the time that I have I will respond quickly to those points. I point out to the member for Burdekin that the wind farms are actually not closing down; they will continue to generate energy. The status of the ownership is irrelevant to that. This bill facilitates their sale; it does not mandate their sale. We will be putting it to market. If we do not get a good offer then we will not sell them. Who is going to sell them at a loss? It is stupid.

I say to the member for Maryborough that I share his concerns about gambling. I am pleased to see him put them on the record. Queensland actually has one of the best and most responsible gambling regimes in the country but that does not mean that we cannot do more and should not be striving to do more. I am very happy to assure him that this is an area of my portfolio that I take very seriously. I get regular reports from Treasury, particularly from its Household Gambling Survey that often shows some quite worrying trends, particularly in some of the areas that he outlined. I do stress that it is a very small minority, but for those people it has a very serious impact on them and their families.