



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

CONSUMER CREDIT (QUEENSLAND) AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.13 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise to participate in this debate as only this week I have taken on the portfolio of tourism for the state opposition. My colleague the member for Caloundra was handling the aspects of the bill that pertain to his new portfolio responsibilities regarding fair trading, and I will be making comment upon the tourism aspects but he has already ably covered those formally on behalf of the state opposition.

First of all, across the parliament we all know what an incredibly important role tourism plays throughout the many regions of this great state. It has long been a strength of the state and a product that we have to sell, but it is not something that we can ever take for granted. Thus, having strong strategies and good implementation of those strategies to keep the cutting edge and the freshness of our product is vitally important.

With regard to the amendments that are being considered by the parliament, as my colleague has outlined in support of the bill, they appear to be largely uncontroversial. With regard to the ability to lift the limitation of the tenure of membership of the corporation, I understand that this provision would have been in the bill for some time. Perhaps the minister can clarify the length of time that particular provision has been part of the law. I imagine that the original intention was to ensure that there continued to be performance in those roles and people in the industry who are able to bring not only experience but also new ideas to the table.

We have been fortunate that we have a great depth of very experienced people in the industry who have ably represented in those roles before. I appreciate the explanation given in the explanatory notes and the minister's second reading speech that the intention to lift the limitation is not to lose the experience of those in that place. I would seek some clarification from the minister as to what will be involved in the three-year review that will be available as a mechanism to ensure the performance of those acting in that membership role. What is envisaged as to how that review mechanism will operate?

Certainly, the issue of stability is one that we appreciate. I imagine that it was previously considered that a six-year tenure would provide that level of stability. There is some retrospectivity to address the fact that people have carried on in those particular positions. I may misunderstand the situation, but I believe that there are members of the board who have actually been acting in those roles beyond the six-year tenure.

Ms Keech: It was brought to our attention that they could be acting beyond the six years, so that is why we are ensuring that we do not lose the very valuable expertise and leadership that we have from the TQ board.

Miss SIMPSON: I accept the minister's explanation and I thank her for it. Obviously, it is important that the best people for those roles are maintained. Even given the performance of the past, we can never take that for granted into the future. We will be supporting the bill before the parliament in good faith, although we will always reserve the right to look at it and provide feedback from industry as we develop those contacts so that we can find the best way to implement the strategy to keep the cutting edge in the state. Certainly there is strong bipartisan support for this industry. We need to ensure that it continues to have the best support in order to support the many communities that find that it is a valuable part of their local economy and their jobs growth. I commend the bill to the House.