



Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Tuesday, 6 March 2007

BODY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (6.23 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise to participate in the debate on the Body Corporate and Community Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2006. I want to start by taking members to the amendments proposed to the Liquor Act 1992 where the minister has led by introducing a significant amendment to the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal. During the debate this evening a number of members have spoken about the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal. My experience and my dealing with the members on this tribunal is that the members are genuine, caring and very competent. I can assure members that they certainly know the law. They certainly have ability and they certainly have experience. I want to put on the record that I think our current tribunal members are very competent and apt to deal with the matters before them.

In relation to the amendment that will allow the submission of new evidence involving liquor licensing matters before the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal, I think this is a great move and I thank the minister for taking on board the matter I raised in my private member's bill last year, because I believe it is a genuine request and certainly necessary. I draw members' attention to the fact that the fresh evidence that can be produced can also be required when the tribunal considers that the applicant for the liquor licence has failed in their responsibility in following through all of the issues they are required to present to the chief executive officer in their application. I think that is very important. The key things are that it allows new evidence to be produced to the tribunal and it gives tribunal members greater powers to ask for information to refer matters back to the chief executive for further consideration. I urge members to read the minister's second reading speech and, perhaps if they are interested, read my private member's bill that was introduced earlier, because I think it is a great initiative for Queenslanders and for the people who have concerns that they would like to take to the tribunal.

I want to take members to the other part of the bill dealing with the body corporate component. I have been in contact with Colin Lamont, Chairman of the Unit Owners and Body Corporate Alliance. He has raised with me some concerns, and I know that he has spoken with the minister and departmental staff and they are aware of his concerns. Without being over the top, I say to the minister that I hope there continues to be an ongoing review of the legislation. I certainly believe that there is perhaps room to greater police our body corporate management entities. I look forward to the shadow minister's amendments being discussed in the consideration in detail stage and listening to the minister's response and seeing where that will go. I have some concerns about the operation of some of our body corporate management entities. I believe that there is room for licensing in the future. Some of the submissions that have been brought to my attention by two people in particular raise some real concerns that perhaps mirror the comments made by the member for Surfers Paradise, but I do not intend to raise those on the floor of the chamber.