



Speech by

John-Paul Langbroek

MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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JUSTICE (FAIR TRADING) LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.09 pm): I also rise with pleasure to speak briefly to the Justice (Fair Trading) Legislation Amendment Bill. I note the support proffered by the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Toowoomba South. I note the contribution made by him and his queries about a couple of clauses that he has issue with—clauses 60 and 64. I note that the bill makes amendments to a variety of fair trading legislation. There are changes to the CrimTrac licensing system. The relevant acts will be amended to provide a specific head of power to enable the chief executive or the Commissioner for Fair Trading to recover the costs of obtaining criminal history reports.

This bill amends those acts for the following reasons. The first is the improvement of the CrimTrac system, particularly in information sharing and licensing. Agencies seeking criminal history reports will be required to pay for them rather than the Office of Fair Trading. This relieves financial burdens on the Office of Fair Trading by implementing a user-pays system. As stated in the explanatory notes, as the honourable member for Burnett quoted, the Cabinet Budget Review Committee in December 2004 determined that a user-pays regime was to be implemented by affected agencies for employment and licensing purposes by 1 July 2005. To implement this directive on an interim basis, the Office of Fair Trading has utilised section 36(2) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 to enable the chief executive to recover the reasonable cost of obtaining criminal history reports further to licence or registration processing.

I also note that the bill will improve the licensing procedures of the Office of Fair Trading regulated bodies. The licensing system will be altered to incorporate licences granted under a number of acts. The acts included are the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, the Security Providers Act 1993, the Introduction Agents Act 2001, the Retirement Villages Act 1999, the Tourism Services Act 2003 and the Travel Agents Act 1988. The licensing system will also provide the means for a possible implementation of electronic renewals—I note that that is in the case of people who are renewing licences who do not have particular histories that may be of concern to the department—and applications for low-risk licences.

The legislation also incorporates changes to the Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Brisbane, under the Churches of Christ, Scientist, Incorporation Act 1964. The church does not have enough members to facilitate a quorum to wind up the enterprise under the act. This bill will provide those means.

The bill will allow for the incorporation of an early stage venture capital limited partnership in attracting investments into Queensland. The venture capital market has grown exponentially through the various tax breaks given by the state of Queensland. These breaks are said to ensure big investments in Queensland business and make for a positive growth environment for overseas investors.

The bill will also allow a register of undertakings to be published on the Office of Fair Trading web site. It provides for openness of executive decision making. Current provisions do not allow for this. It will also ensure consistencies in the implementation of the Consumer Credit (Queensland) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2008, Part 4—Amendment of Security Providers Act 1993 to ensure drafting consistencies.

This bill is wide-ranging in some ways in terms of the acts that have to be amended to achieve the purpose of the overall bill. I look forward to hearing the debate in consideration in detail. I note that there are also amendments to the Travel Agents Act 1988.