



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Tuesday, 2 December 2008

TRANSPORT (NEW QUEENSLAND DRIVER LICENSING) AMENDMENT BILL; ADULT PROOF OF AGE CARD BILL

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (12.57 pm): The contribution we have heard from the member for Robina is quite extraordinary. He criticises this important and timely measure by the government to introduce the smart card regime for drivers licences. Only half a century after the development of integrated circuits we have seen the digital revolution sweep the world. Making sure that we have a set of arrangements around our drivers licence technology that reflects this digital revolution and provides a great platform for a whole range of services and initiatives to be delivered by government into the future through the drivers licence system and the adult proof of age card, as provided for in the other bill being debated in the House, is important. The provisions are outstanding steps forward in providing those services across the state of Queensland—for all Queenslanders.

It is clear that the member for Robina has not been the victim of identity fraud. I can understand that. I can understand people not wanting to adopt the member for Robina's identity. Those people who have been the subject of identity fraud would appreciate the measures that the minister and the government are taking to help provide further protection for the people of Queensland.

While integrated circuits have been around for only half a century, they have virtually become ubiquitous. I have any number in my wallet at the moment. There are any number of them engaged for our computers, mobile phones and other digital appliances. The idea of having it inside a chip was the idea of a German rocket science Helmut Grottrup. In 1968 he invented the automatic chip card. It was only patented in 1982. Here we are—now that technology has been patented—finally delivering on this opportunity and technology as part of our drivers licence system in Queensland.

Other states have developed other sorts of technology. We are well ahead in terms of the introduction of this technology. It is a further development on what is provided for in the current photographic laminated licence. I congratulate the minister, his office and his department on the briefings they have provided to members about the security and privacy measures associated with the drivers licences and the adult proof of age card. I commend the bills to the House.