



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 20 May 2010

BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.42 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contribution to the debate tonight on the Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. I particularly acknowledge the Plints from Hannah's Foundation in the gallery tonight. This bill includes four important reforms that will require amendments to a number of different pieces of legislation, including the Building Act 1975, the Urban Land Development Act 2007, the Land Title Act 1994 and the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Act 1971. The first and most significant reform involves furthering key aspects of the second stage of the government's swimming pool safety improvement strategy. The remainder of stage 2 provisions are expected to be brought before the House later this year.

Last year eight children under the age of four drowned in residential pools in Queensland—more than in any other state or territory. Statistics indicate that an estimated 50 children will present to emergency departments this year following life-threatening immersion incidents. I acknowledge the comments from the member for Currumbin and her experience as a paediatric nurse in that context. These statistics indicate that increased pool protection is very much needed not only for backyard pools but also while Queensland families are on holiday. As part of these amendments the state government is committed to extending pool safety laws beyond their current scope to include hotel, motel, hostel and caravan park pools. It is important to note that these safety measures do not apply solely to pool owners and their families but to those who live next door or nearby.

Let me come to the heart of some of the issues that have been raised by members, including the shadow minister, in relation to the legislation that is before us. There was an issue about portable pools. That will be addressed in the legislation that is scheduled to come before the parliament later this year. I can advise that I have already written to the Minister for Fair Trading on raising awareness of the mandatory fencing requirements for certain portable pools and he has advised that this matter is being dealt with on a national level as part of a national standard that is being adopted. I can also advise that I have written to the Minister for Fair Trading in regard to strategies to assist in raising consumer and industry awareness on that issue as well. Declarations in simple, plain language in relation to those products might be part of that solution.

In relation to the issue of self-closing doors that has been raised in a couple of different contexts, the costs associated with replacing existing self-closing doors with fencing has been costed through the RIS with a likely maximum figure of \$1,000 for particularly complex rebuilds. If there is an instance where there is a set of circumstances that is really hard for people to get past, that will be dealt with through an appeal process. In relation to the Pool Safety Council membership, certainly I will consider SPASA as well as consumer advocates. The high quality of pool safety training courses is absolute.