



Speech by


**Hon. Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

Hansard Thursday, 14 February 2013

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## **CLASSIFICATION OF COMPUTER GAMES AND IMAGES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.56 pm), in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Classification of Computer Games and Images and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. The amendments to the Classification of Computer Games and Images (Interim) Act 1995 is to allow the sale and supply of R18+ computer games in Queensland. These reforms have support from both the wider community and the computer games industry. These are important for several reasons. Firstly, they give adult gamers the right to make informed choices about what they want to see and hear. For many years in Queensland adults have been able to make choices in relation to films with adult content and themes. It will not become a free-for-all. Material which is deemed too offensive to anyone will continue to be placed in the refused classification category and will not be able to be legally sold or distributed anywhere in Queensland or Australia. While the bill increases freedom of choice for adults, it also puts in place a strong regulatory regime to protect children from material that may disturb or harm them. The sale and distribution of R18+ games to minors will be prohibited. The new classification will provide clear and unambiguous information to parents about what material is suitable for minors to access.

The Recording of Evidence Act amendments will enable implementation of the government's policy to outsource the recording and transcribing of legal proceedings in Queensland as announced in last year's budget. This policy will ensure a better service for courts and tribunals and people who use them and will assist in creating savings for the government.

The bill also has a small amendment with respect to the Neighbourhood Disputes Resolution Act 2011. When I was the shadow Attorney I had a particular discomfort with the fact that the bill was called the Neighbourhood Disputes Resolution Bill when, in fact, all it dealt with was neighbourhood disputes with respect to trees and dividing fences. I moved an amendment at the time, living in a fairytale world thinking that the Attorney at the time and the Labor Party would agree to my amendment. No such luck. It is my immense pleasure to introduce this small technical amendment which will change the Neighbourhood Disputes Resolution Act to the Neighbourhood Disputes Resolution (Dividing Fence and Tree) Act. That is the difference between opposition and government, you see.

**A government member:** Common sense.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection.

**Mr Rickuss:** You mean good government.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We were a good opposition, but we are a better government. It makes sense because people who have these types of disputes can now clearly see that it is a neighbourhood dispute with respect to a dividing fence or trees.

If I can turn to the contributions of all honourable members, I wish, in the spirit of gaming in Queensland, all honourable gentlemen and ladies a happy Valentine's Day. There are games out there

with respect to Valentine's Day, although they have an R18+ classification so we ought not talk about it today. I want to pay some attention at a later stage to particular contributions, particularly the contribution from my good friend the member for Lytton, who confessed to the House that he had *Resident Evil* as a computer game, he watched it at night and became quite scared. I have watched the series of the movie *Resident Evil*. I do not know whether the honourable member has gone from the computer game to actually watching the movie, but if he has he would be more scared than what he was in the computer game. Thank you for the contribution.