




Speech By
Hon. Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.49 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions to this great debate on all matters of interest to all manner of people. I thank all members on this side of the House for their support for the bill. In her speech the opposition leader noted that they will support the bill, which is a nice change. Interestingly—and members will like this—the committee report contains a statement of reservation from the member for Rockhampton in which he says that they have reservations about this bill, but that they will explain what they are in the debate. We have had the debate. I have been listening intently. I did not hear the member for Rockhampton speak and certainly I did not hear from the opposition leader what the reservations are. Therefore, I am not sure what the Labor Party uses the committee process for. They do not do their homework. They write a statement of reservation on everything just in case they need it in the future. Anyway, they are supporting the bill so that is fine.

The only point I will make about the contribution from the opposition leader is this. The opposition leader says that some of these provisions were contained in a previous bill that was not debated in the House because the 52nd Parliament was prorogued. It is easy to say, 'We were going to do this. We were going to do that.' Unless you do it, you cannot take credit for it.

The Labor Party had 12 years to do it, member for Rockhampton, when they sat over here as the government. They cannot come in here now and say, 'We had this in a bill to debate, but in 12 years we never got around to doing it.' This government is doing it. This government could have done what the Labor Party did and wait 12 years and then introduce the legislation or do it within the first 18 months of government. That is why we are doing this. I commend the bill to the House. I thank all members for their contribution.