




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

TREASURY AND TRADE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Firstly, I would like to commend the Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, for constantly delivering legislation that cuts down the cost of living for families in the Chatsworth electorate as well as slashing the immense red tape that was left by the previous incompetent ALP government. This amendment bill will repeal eight pieces of legislation that are no longer relevant or are no longer required. These acts include luminary acts such as the Anzac Square Development Project Act, the Commonwealth and State Statistical Agreement Act and the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia Agreement Act among others, and, finally, the Government Stock Act 1912. Some of this legislation is outdated by almost 100 years. It is quite clear that the previous state ALP government, like the recently departed federal ALP government, was too busy creating legislation rather than reviewing any of the existing acts. This denotes the fundamental difference in our approach to government. We believe in empowering individual liberty rather than looking for ways to legislate to control and subjugate the individual.

The Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is a part of Queensland Treasury and Trade's ongoing review of acts under its jurisdiction and I congratulate it for that. This reviews means that irrelevant clauses in acts are removed, typographical errors are corrected and further clarification and streamlines are considered. A common-sense approach such as this is music to my ears. It is senseless creating more legislation without looking at the current laws to ensure that they remain abreast of Queensland's requirements.

When I talk to constituents in my electorate of Chatsworth, apart from the cost-of-living pressures that we inherited, the second most common concern is the burden of red tape, whether it is personal or business related. I am proud to represent these wonderful people as part of a government that wants to enable people to get on with their lives without being a hindrance. Indeed, people just want to get on with their lives, especially now that we have a stable and grown-up government both in Queensland and federally. Queenslanders could certainly not afford another moment of the failed social experiment that we call an ALP-Greens led government. Watermelon management has been sliced and diced. 'Hi, I'm Kevin from Queensland' was certainly not here to help, with at least four last-minute tax grabs before he was shown the door last Saturday. The less said about his 21-minute concession diatribe the better. Political historians will use his concession speech as a metaphor for all that was wrong with his Prime Ministership.

What else will the Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill do for my constituents in Chatsworth? The amendment bill will cater for changes to the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994. It will ensure that individuals who try to dispute the authority of a financial institution when making payment for compulsory third-party insurance alongside their motor vehicle registration will be noted. Although the majority of people fulfil their obligation to pay for adequate cover, some individuals have seen fit to dispute the payment upon the receipt of their registration and insurance certificate. As there is currently a lack of written authority for financial institutions, the payment is reversed. This amendment bill will give the Department of Transport and Main Roads the

authority to resolve the matter in a more timely way as well as ensure credit card or debit card payments are covered under the same provisions as cheque payments. The Newman government is committed to ensuring a fair go for all individuals and individuals should not be able to benefit from loopholes in poor legislation.

The amendment bill will also ensure that the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994 clarifies the insurance cover for motor vehicles, which includes motorised wheelchairs. This amendment will provide generous cover for motorised wheelchairs for any motor vehicle incidents that occur Australia-wide. Although the Motor Accident Insurance Commission considers that the current act caters for broad cover, unfortunately, currently the legislation is nebulous. The Trade and Treasury and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will also make one very important amendment to the MAI Act. It will give the Queensland Police Service, the Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service authorisation to disclose information of individuals who may have witnessed a motor vehicle accident. This authorisation will ensure that the Nominal Defendant or other compulsory third-party insurers are able to get crucial information when assessing personal injury claims stemming from motor vehicle accidents.

Finally, inconsistency since the inception of the Information Privacy Act 2009, especially when it comes to government agencies disclosing information about witnesses, will be amended. These inconsistencies impact on the timely decision making of claims as well as prevent claimants from receiving funds sooner. This amendment bill will ensure that individuals who are involved in motor vehicle incidents are able to have their claim assessed more quickly and, if successful, access to their money sooner. This is important, especially as rehabilitation costs may need to be met. Finally, these amendments will reduce the cost associated with legal matters and the investigation of claims when it comes to involving witnesses.

I again take this opportunity to congratulate the Treasurer on the work that he continues to undertake. I thoroughly commend the Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to the House.