




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

RELATIONSHIPS (CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS) AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015. I am very happy to speak in support of this important bill as it is a matter of great personal significance to me. This bill will restore provision for adult couples of any gender to hold a civil partnership ceremony and to register their relationship.

Nearly 30 years ago, I was able to declare my love and commitment to my partner in the beautiful gardens of the historical Shire Clerk's Cottage at the Waterloo Bay Leisure Centre and to celebrate and share this formal commitment to each other in front of friends and family. It is fair, it is right and it is just that couples, irrespective of their gender, have an opportunity to hold officially recognised civil partnership ceremonies. Although this bill does not mimic marriage, it provides choice for heterosexual couples and same-sex couples who would prefer a civil partnership rather than a marriage, with the ability to have their loving relationship recognised and, upon registration, the relationship having legal status.

Being able to publicly declare your commitment and love to another person in front of your loved ones is a milestone moment in life and it should be possible for each and every member of our community, regardless of gender, to experience this commitment if they choose. As a parent, this is an event that I am looking forward to for both of my children. This bill will ensure that my son and daughter can, if they choose, declare their love and commitment to their partners with a public ceremony and, hopefully, some grandchildren sometime down the track—but no pressure, Callum and Audrey. I know that some may not share my views. I am deeply respectful and understanding of their point of view. However, I feel that each of us has the right to show the one we love our commitment, faithfulness and loyalty and to have the opportunity to hold an official ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate our relationships with family and friends. I commend this bill to the House.