




Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**

**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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### **TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.46 pm): I too rise to speak to the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. For my contribution I will primarily concentrate on two areas. One is in relation to the cost of the proof of age card, which has already been outlined by some of the previous speakers. The other relates to the issue of consultation.

In terms of background, I note the committee's position on the bill. I thank the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for their work. I note that the committee made four recommendations. One of them was that the committee recommends that the bill be passed. A further recommendation was for the department to undertake appropriate public consultation on proposed amendments to legislation. The previous speaker from this side of the chamber, the member for Gympie, outlined those concerns eruditely. I will come back to that point.

The transport of dangerous goods provisions make perfect sense. I was honoured in the previous government to be the assistant minister for transport. In terms of this omnibus bill, whilst some of the provisions might seem to be of a minor nature they do need to be tidied up from time to time. The amendments to Transport Infrastructure Act and the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act, amongst others, are sensible provisions to be tidied up as part of this amendment bill.

I come back to a couple of points. One relates to the proof of age card. TMR offers an adult proof of age card, which was previously known as the 18+ card. There is no problem there at all. I absolutely support the introduction of this new ID card, particularly for young people from the ages of 15 to 17. It will be incredibly useful. I, too, have sons. I have one who will be soon entering this age band as well. It makes perfect sense. I pick up the comments that were made by one of our first speakers—and that is the member for Glass House—in relation to the cost of the card.

As a corollary, recently I have had people come into my Chatsworth office who have been, and I think with complete justification, having a good old-fashioned whinge about the cost of documentation for JPs and commissioners for declarations, saying that the uplift in costs for those documents in the budget that was handed down a few months was outrageous. This government seems to be concerned in relation to the reviews that were outlined by the member for Gympie, who spoke before me, but I wish they would give a bit more consideration to some of these basic costs.

When you compare the cost of this ID card that is being proposed with other Australian jurisdictions, a similar card in Victoria costs \$10 and in South Australia it costs \$22, but in the ACT they are able to produce a card for \$6.27. That is a bit different from \$66.65 for this particular card. Whilst we will be not opposing the bill, it is something that has been brought up by previous speakers and I think it is worth noting in relation to the debate on the bill this afternoon.

I particularly want to come back to my last key point, and that is in relation to consultation. We hear time and time again different ministers in particular get up and beat the drum in relation to consultation, transparency et al. At the end of the day, it was said by the previous speaker, the member for Glass House, and also by the member for Gympie on this side of the chamber that recommendation

No. 4 of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee's report was that the department undertake 'appropriate' public consultation on the proposed amendments to the legislation. In fact, that is very concerning. It is almost like an episode of *The Hollowmen*, *Utopia* or *Yes Minister* all rolled into one, where you get all of the public servants in a room, who literally walk around—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Yes, they have time for a muffin and a cup of coffee, and someone asks, 'Are we all good to go here?' and they say, 'Yes, sounds good to me.' They give the thumbs up and away they go. That is not true consultation. We know that members on that side of the chamber are under a bit of pressure at the moment. We understand that but, at the end of the day, there is no excuse for a lack of adequate consultation. Whilst in itself the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill does contain a lot of sensible, tidy-up provisions, I do highlight to the House, as previous speakers have, the cost of the proof of age card. The lack of consultation, in particular, is something that the government needs to take a lot more seriously.