




Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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FOOD (LABELLING OF SEAFOOD) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.57 pm), in reply: I will turn to some of the points that have been raised shortly. Firstly, I want to address the fact that most of the contributions made—certainly the contributions by the opposition were very respectful—by government members were respectful. Interestingly, some members, including one tonight, tried to tear strips off the bill, which is interesting. The politics around this are quite funny insofar as the Labor opposition in New South Wales has twice introduced this bill. Labor are saying, 'It is all right because federally we want to achieve the same thing.'

In Northern Territory a bill based on exactly the same principle has been operating for eight years. They had a review where they said it is working really well. Here we are saying that we cannot pass this bill. We are going to find 100 reasons not to pass it—some are legitimate. No legislation is perfect and nothing we put through this place has nothing to nitpick. The question is: are the things that members opposite are listing significant enough to offset the benefits? I am going to do my best to make sure they have to explain that to their constituents.

Yes, these are minor points and cafes might have to reprint menus, but most of time they are paper menus—that is notwithstanding the colourful, glossy, laminated one that was presented by the member for Stretton. Most of what we are talking about is chalk on chalk boards and black and white printed menus. The industry group that is leading the charge against this bill appeared before the committee. Under intense scrutiny we asked, 'Exactly what is the cost we are talking about here?' They said, 'Reprinting menus. We have to print hundreds of A4 pages. That can cost a bit.' Really?

We are considering the benefits of this—stimulating the seafood industry, engaging economic nationalism again and, probably the most important of all, informing the consumers and not endorsing people who mislead consumers. So all of that is weighed up against it is going to cost too much—which in most cases is reprinting a few pages. Really? That is the best you have?