

STATUTES AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (TAXATION ADMINISTRATION) BILL

23 July, 2008

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 7 May 2008. Page 3230.)

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (12:12): I, too, rise to make a brief contribution to this bill. I am pleased to see that the intent of the bill is to reduce red tape, and I wish it would go across all sectors of government, but I will speak more on that later. I note that it makes amendments to the Emergency Services Funding Act 1998, Land Tax Act 1936, Payroll Tax Act 1971, Stamp Duties Act 1923, and also the Taxation Administration Act 1996. The target of this bill is to reduce red tape, and that can only be commended. The bill also amends the Taxation Administration Act, which I have mentioned, and the Emergency Services Funding Act 1998. I note that the bill is supposedly to remain revenue neutral throughout and is aimed at making the relevant acts easier to decipher.

As a person who has been in this place for just over two years, I am well aware that every day we pass another form of legislation that appears to take away more freedoms from people, but a bill of this nature, if its design is to reduce red tape, can only be commended. I hope it does make everything easier to decipher.

I raise an issue that has been brought to my attention regarding a constituent in my electorate putting forward GST paperwork to the federal taxation body and the grief that person is going through trying to get a faceless person to pick up the issue. Every time they ring up, it involves another person and they have to go through the whole detail of the situation (which was an honest mistake made by the constituent several years ago), and it looks likely that it will go on and will probably be referred further on. It is a terrible situation for people out there who are trying to run a business when they are held up by red tape. There does not seem to be an avenue at the federal level to meet someone face-to-face to sort it out and I think that needs to be worked out, but I do commend this legislation, if it goes through. As I said before, anything to fix up red tape I am happy with.