

***KING JAMES BIBLE — 400<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY***

*Statement by Member for Southern River*

**MR P. ABETZ (Southern River)** [12.55 pm]: The year 2011 marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the *King James Bible*, and I wish to commend the organisers of the recent excellent events at St Georges Cathedral to mark this important milestone. Although several English translations of the Bible were in use in 1604, King James I of England appointed 54 scholars to work in seven teams on the translation. They took seven years to translate the Bible from the so-called textus receptus manuscripts. Seven of the scholars died during the translation period. The publication of the King James Version of the Bible was a momentous occasion, as it provided an English version of the Bible for use by ordinary people—although in those days not many could afford to buy one. A loose-leaf version cost 10 shillings and a bound version 12 shillings. The King James Bible was in universal use in the Church of England of the time, and widespread use among other groups. It is fair to say that the publication of the King James Version of the Bible helped shape British culture, and certainly shaped the development of the English language, as it set the standard for spelling. Over the years it has undergone minor editing to keep pace with the evolution of our language. Then in 1982 a total revision was published known as the New King James Version, which is in modern English. It has brought joy, hope and peace to millions of people around the world and was the constant companion of our forefathers who settled and explored this land.