

FINANCIAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 12 May.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [10.21 am]: I will be very brief. I rise on behalf of the opposition to support the Financial Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I understand that this bill was introduced previously and there have been no amendments made to what we dealt with previously in this house. It seems eminently sensible to seek to strengthen some of our public sector management practices. I understand that part of the bill—the Treasurer covered this in his second reading speech—requires agencies to formally notify their minister in the event that they experience financial difficulties. I would have thought that anyone outside the house watching the passage of this very interesting piece of legislation would have expected that to be something that already happens, but obviously there are no formal requirements in place in that regard. A whole raft of things in the legislation have come out of a number of reviews to strengthen the requirements of the public service and the ways in which they manage their financial responsibilities. From the opposition's perspective, we have no objection to that.

We appreciate the briefing that was provided. I have no doubt that when this bill reaches the Legislative Council our shadow Treasurer will have a few questions, but from my perspective, we have discussed this in our joint party room and we have no objections to the intent and purpose of this legislation, so we do not intend to spend any more time going over the information that has been presented.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Treasurer) [10.23 am] — in reply: I thank all members for their support and their comprehensive contributions to this important piece of legislation. Members will know, having read the Financial Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, that it is incredibly interesting stuff; it is fascinating, I am sure, for many members in this place. Essentially, it is designed to put in place a range of recommendations from various analyses and reports into the financial management framework for Western Australia, to improve governance and accountability, to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, to reduce internal red tape, to make sure that any problems or issues within agencies that require attention are brought to attention and dealt with, and to ensure that there is greater accountability in the provision of public money and more efficiency in the way that Parliament operates. I thank members for their support.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr M. McGowan (Treasurer)**, and transmitted to the Council.