

**STATUTES (REPEALS AND MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 2008**

*First Reading*

Bill read a first time, on motion by **Mr C.C. Porter (Attorney General)**.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

*Second Reading*

**MR C.C. PORTER (Bateman — Attorney General)** [11.16 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Statutes (Repeals and Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2008, colloquially termed omnibus legislation, is an avenue for making general housekeeping amendments to legislation. It is designed to make only relatively minor non-controversial amendments to various acts and to repeal acts that are no longer required. Omnibus bills assist in expediting the government's legislative program and parliamentary business by reducing the number of separate amendment bills that deal with relatively minor amendments and repeals. They also help to weed out spent or redundant legislation from the statute book.

The bill is made up of two main parts. Part 2 repeals unproclaimed or obsolete, redundant, spent and inoperative acts. Part 3 of the bill contains a range of miscellaneous, non-controversial and administrative amendments to a number of acts across various portfolio areas. These are minor or technical changes to legislation that parliamentary counsel considers are appropriate for inclusion in the bill. Examples of such amendments include corrections to typographical, grammatical, formatting and cross-referencing errors, amendments that are believed to better implement the object or intent of legislation, amendments arising from the enactment or repeal of other legislation and amendments that update terminology. The various amendments are explained in detail in the explanatory memorandum. As is the usual practice with omnibus bills, this bill was referred to the Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review for detailed scrutiny. Amendments recommended by the committee were made in the Council and are reflected in the current version of the bill.

It is ironic that in this bill, which deals with typographical amendments, the second reading speech referred to parts 2 and 3. It should be parts 1 and 2. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.