

CASINO (BURSWOOD ISLAND) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2011

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by **Hon Simon O'Brien (Minister for Finance)**, read a first time.

Second Reading

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Finance) [10.24 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The bill ratifies the twelfth supplementary agreement, which in turn amends the state agreement scheduled to the Casino (Burswood Island) Agreement Act 1985.

On 19 July 2010 the minister announced that the government had reached agreement with Burswood Limited on amendments to the state agreement in regard to the rate of casino tax payable on electronic gaming machine revenues as part of a major expansion of the Burswood Entertainment Complex.

Commencing on 1 July 2011, the tax rate will increase in annual increments from 20 per cent to 20.625 per cent. The end tax rate of 20.625 per cent is a composite of the rate of 20 per cent payable on the previously approved 1 750 electronic gaming machines and the rate of 25 per cent payable on an additional 250 electronic gaming machines approved as part of the expansion project.

A new casino tax rate of 22 per cent plus the levy of one per cent payable to Burswood Park Board will apply to the revenue generated by fully automated table games. The supplementary agreement also contains an important amendment that will permit gaming on cruise ships while they are cruising in Western Australian waters. In addition, the present prohibition on the playing of two-up within a 200-kilometre radius of Burswood Casino will be reduced to 100 kilometres. It will also be possible for the minister, with the consent of Burswood, to allow the playing of two-up in conjunction with a major sporting event or special occasion at a racing club within a 100-kilometre radius of Burswood Casino. Another important amendment to the state agreement will authorise Burswood Park Board to pay up to \$5 million for the development of the Heirisson Island sculpture park project in such amounts and at such times as determined by the minister.

Part 3 of the bill makes consequential amendments to the Gaming and Wagering Commission Act 1987. The prohibition on the playing of two-up from a 200-kilometre radius of Burswood Casino is reduced to the 100 kilometre radius. The bill also introduces a regulation-making power under the Gaming and Wagering Commission Act to allow gaming on cruise ships while they are in Western Australian waters and for those same ships to possess gaming equipment. I acknowledge the willingness of the owners of Burswood Casino to support the amendments to the state agreement to allow gaming on cruise ships while they are in Western Australian waters and to reduce the prohibition on the playing of two-up to within a 100-kilometre radius of Burswood Casino.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.