

DISPOSAL OF UNCOLLECTED GOODS AMENDMENT BILL 2015

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr P.T. Miles (Parliamentary Secretary)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the parliamentary secretary.

Second Reading

MR P.T. MILES (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.09 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Disposal of Uncollected Goods Amendment Bill 2015 will amend the Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act 1970 to raise the monetary threshold from \$300 to \$3 500. As I will set out shortly, this threshold value is important, as it determines what action needs to be taken before uncollected goods can be lawfully disposed of. This amendment will save businesses, such as motor vehicle repairers, time and money by streamlining the procedure involved in disposing of uncollected goods. The bill accords with the government's plan to reinvigorate regulatory reform and complements the Licensing Provisions Amendment Bill 2015, the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2015 and the Obsolete Legislation Repeal Bill 2015. Together, the four bills demonstrate the government's ongoing commitment to reducing unnecessary regulation and ensuring that legislation in force remains efficient and effective.

The Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act 1970 establishes procedures for the disposal of uncollected goods that have been taken to a business for such purposes as repair or storage and have remained uncollected by their lawful owner. The act has different requirements for the treatment of uncollected goods depending on their value. For example, the procedure for goods valued below \$300 is different from that for those valued above \$300. For goods valued above \$300, businesses are required to notify the owner of the goods that the goods may be collected; after six months, again notify the owner of the goods and place a notice in both a newspaper and the *Government Gazette* that they will be seeking a court order to dispose of the goods; and, one month later, seek an order from the Magistrates Court to allow them to lawfully sell or dispose of the uncollected goods.

Throughout this time, the business left holding the uncollected goods must store those goods. This process takes a lot of time and can be costly if the goods are bulky. An example is when a motor vehicle repairer is left with a vehicle that an owner decides is too costly to repair and abandons the vehicle. The law is intended to ensure that goods that would be of real value to the lawful owner are not too easily disposed of. However, the \$300 threshold figure has not been revised since 1970 and therefore no longer reflects community standards of an item of value. It is entirely possible that the current cost of complying with this law would exceed the value of the goods in some cases.

To address this issue, the bill will raise the threshold value from \$300 to \$3 500. This figure has been calculated by inflation escalation of \$300 in 1970 to the current dollar value. The amendment also allows for the threshold value to be amended in the regulations in the future. This will prevent this legislation again falling significantly out of step with community expectations and standards. The amendments contained in the bill will alleviate the burden on businesses when disposing of uncollected goods valued at less than \$3 500.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms S.F. McGurk**.