

INTERPRETATION AND REPRINTS AMENDMENT BILL 2008

Second Reading

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [12.26 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Interpretation and Reprints Amendment Bill 2008 amends the Interpretation Act 1984 and the Reprints Act 1984. Members would be aware that the Interpretation Act 1984 consolidates the law regarding the construction, application, interpretation and operation of written law in Western Australia. This bill amends the Interpretation Act 1984 in three ways: firstly, by correcting a definition in the act; secondly, by inserting a new definition; and, thirdly, by correcting a typographical error.

Members would also be aware that the Reprints Act 1984 provides for the reprinting of acts of this Parliament and subsidiary legislation as well as providing for the incorporation of a limited range of formal amendments as set out in section 7 of the act in reprints of such legislation.

This bill also amends the Reprints Act 1984 to allow an authorised officer in the Western Australian Parliamentary Counsel's Office to insert an abbreviation of a unit of measurement; to insert "and" or "or" at the end of paragraphs in legislation; and to delete references to the definite or indefinite articles—"the" and "a"—at the beginning of definitions in legislation.

Mr M. McGowan: An historic reform.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Who said that this is not an active government?

The operative parts of the bill will commence on the day after the bill is assented to by the Governor.

Also, the Interpretation Act 1984 is amended by inserting two new additions. Firstly, definitions of "Gazette or Government Gazette" and "local government district" are added to the act. Secondly, there is a proposed new section to make it clear that a reference in a written law to a paragraph includes a reference to the conjunction—for example, the word "and"—after that paragraph which connects that paragraph to another paragraph. Without this proposed new section, if a paragraph is deleted from a written law, there is no power, other than this Parliament enacting new legislation, to delete the conjunction that follows the paragraph that has been deleted and joined both paragraphs together.

Section 52(4) of the Interpretation Act 1984 is also proposed to be amended by deleting the word "notification" where it occurs and by replacing it with the word "nomination".

The Reprints Act 1984 also sets out formal amendments that can be made during the course of authorising a reprint of an act of this Parliament. Section 5 of the Reprints Act 1984 provides that the only persons able to make such amendments are officers in the Western Australian Parliamentary Counsel's Office authorised to make such formal changes by the Attorney General. In this context, the bill proposes to insert new section 7(3)(ca), which will allow an authorised officer to also substitute an abbreviation for the full word form of a unit of measurement of distance or weight or similar concept.

Four new subsections are proposed to be inserted in the Reprints Act 1984 to allow an authorised officer to include the relevant conjunction—"and" or "or"—at the end of the paragraphs in a section of an act, as required.

Finally, proposed new section 7(5)(d) will allow an authorised officer to delete the definite or indefinite article—"the" or "a"—at the beginning of a definition and change the definition so that it is not in bold or italics.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr R.F. Johnson (Leader of the House)**.