

RAIL SAFETY NATIONAL LAW (WA) BILL 2014

Third Reading

Resumed from 26 November.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.13 pm]: During the second reading debate and consideration in detail stage of the Rail Safety National Law (WA) Bill, the opposition highlighted a number of issues associated with the bill, but, of course, the opposition will support the carriage of the bill. I did note earlier during the third reading debate that there was some confusion about the copies of the bills that were provided. I note that there was some consternation and at one stage I felt that we would have to adjourn debate or adjourn the house because of the controversy and confusion. However, that said, the opposition raised a number of important points, including those by the member for Cockburn during his contribution. Some important aspects were raised during the consideration in detail stage and, of course, during the contribution made by the member for West Swan, about some of the more detailed elements of the bill that were important to be debated and important to be considered during the consideration in detail stage. With that, the opposition has no further comment on the third reading debate.

MR D.C. NALDER (Alfred Cove — Minister for Transport) [12.15 pm] — in reply: I will finish this debate on the Rail Safety National Law (WA) Bill by thanking everybody for their contributions. I apologise for the confusion created by the different pages on the bill, which was due to a formatting error, but I can confirm it was the same bill.

I will provide clarification on a couple of points, one of which is regarding the Australian Capital Territory. I can confirm that it commenced operations under the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator as of 20 November 2014. Further advice has also been received about the issues raised about the South Australian Auditor-General. The incorporated body of the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator will fund any audits of the national regulator undertaken by the South Australian Auditor-General. The Rail Safety National Law provides that the responsible minister is to make arrangements for the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator's annual report to be tabled in the Parliament of the participating jurisdiction. The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator's annual report will include any details of audits of the national regulator undertaken by the South Australian Auditor-General. That confirmed additional advice that I received for questions that were asked during consideration in detail. I appreciate the support of the opposition for the passage of this bill. I thank everybody for their participation in the debate.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.