

STATUTES (REPEALS AND MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 2008

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Hon Norman Moore (Leader of the House)** on behalf of the Minister for Transport, and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral — Leader of the House) [9.12 pm]: 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.

This bill was introduced into Parliament in 2004 and lapsed in 2005 due to the state election. In 2006 it was introduced again, and then was adjourned and referred to a standing committee for review. In 2008 the bill entered the Legislative Council and was passed on 24 June 2008. The clause amendments agreed to by the Legislative Council in June 2004 are reflected in the current version of the bill.

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. It is usual practice for omnibus bills to be referred to the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review; however, given that this bill has already been scrutinised by this committee in great detail, it would be duplicative for this to again occur, when the majority of amendments are in accordance with the committee’s recommendations. I therefore move that the Statutes (Repeals and Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2008 be second read without referring it to the committee. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.