

PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM BILL 2009

Third Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [3.22 pm]: I am very keen to continue my remarks. In doing so, I would like to pass on my personal congratulations to the member for Armadale for her tremendous contribution to the state of Western Australia and to this Parliament. She is a wonderful, wonderful person.

This, of course, is the third reading stage of the important Public Sector Reform Bill 2009. Before my initial comments were curtailed, I was talking about the contributions that had been made by numerous members in this place. The debate during the second reading stage was very intriguing and certainly very interesting, particularly as a number of very important questions were raised by various members on both sides of this place about the importance of the bill. A number of important amendments were made. I commend the contribution of various members to this bill. Obviously, it is important that this bill be passed today and be sent to the other place for scrutiny. With that, I am very happy to conclude my remarks.

MR E.S. RIPPER (Belmont — Leader of the Opposition) [3.24 pm]: The opposition supports the passage of the Public Sector Reform Bill. We supported it at the second reading stage and we moved amendments during consideration in detail. A lot of the amendments were not accepted by the government, but the government moved some amendments that reflected the spirit of our amendments, so we think we have contributed in some way to the improvement of the bill.

I commend the Community and Public Sector Union – Civil Service Association for the way in which it engaged on this bill. I think it collaborated and consulted very successfully with members of Parliament. The CPSU–CSA had a good win out of the debate in here when the government accepted that a range of matters that had been previously excluded from agreements between unions and employers could now be given that consideration. It is something for which the CPSU–CSA has been fighting for a long time. It worked very well with members of Parliament across the board to such an extent that in the end the government really had no choice but to accept that outcome. I congratulate the CPSU–CSA on achieving that.

As I said in my second reading contribution, a high-performance, high-morale public sector is extremely important to a Labor government for the implementation of a Labor agenda. To achieve that high-performance, high-morale public sector there needs to be public sector reform and changes to institutional arrangements, and they need to be backed up with resources, particularly for training, professional development, management improvement and succession planning for the future—all those things that are required in the modern world for successful corporate organisations.

I note that the government will be introducing further legislation to pursue its vision for public sector reform. Although we have been pleased to support this legislation, I suggest that there may be more controversies in the future when those further elements of the public sector reform agenda are introduced, and we may not have quite the easy debate we had on this legislation. Nevertheless, we are pleased to support this legislation and I look forward to the completion of its passage through Parliament.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe — Premier) [3.26 pm] — in reply: I thank members for their contributions through the consideration in detail stage on the Public Sector Reform Bill. A number of amendments were accepted, as the Leader of the Opposition has outlined. I think we all learnt a bit more—I certainly did—about the Public Sector Management Act as we went through the debate. It is quite complex legislation. I appreciate support for the bill; it can now proceed to the upper house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the council.