

**TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (IDENTITY MATCHING SERVICES) BILL 2021**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 23 June 2021.

**HON NEIL THOMSON (Mining and Pastoral)** [8.23 pm]: There are only five minutes for an introduction, but I will use the time to effect. In starting, the opposition will not be opposing this bill. In saying that, we will, however, be taking the matter into the Committee of the Whole stage. We would like to raise a number of questions regarding the 134<sup>th</sup> report, the *Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review: Transport Legislation Amendment (Identity Matching Services) Bill 2021*. For the government's notice, we would like some detailed discussion around the findings and recommendations of that sterling piece of work, chaired by Hon Donna Faragher, MLC, in August 2021. We support the broad intent of the bill, and we know that we are seeing the increase of technology in the identification of individuals and the use of that for a whole range of purposes, particularly in and around law enforcement and border control. The primary source of identification that is often used is through our licence system, which is a very important identification system for this state. We know that technology is increasing at a rapid rate.

The Transport Legislation Amendment (Identity Matching Services) Bill 2021 was brought about because the Premiers and first ministers signed an Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services at the special Council of Australian Governments meeting on counterterrorism on 5 October 2017. The intent has been there for some time. Of course, this particular bill will result in amendments to three pieces of legislation: the Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008, the Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Act 2008 and the Western Australian Photo Card Act 2014. The opposition acknowledges that this legislation is important. We will not oppose it and will outline those reasons, probably at another time after we move on to other business in this place. The caution with which we are approaching this is probably reflective of some of the bipartisan caution that occurred in federal Parliament. When I get to speak at another time, I will bring forward some of the positions that have been brought by members of the Australian Labor Party in the federal government on the Identity-matching Services Bill 2019 and the Australian Passports Amendment (Identity-matching Services) Bill 2019. I think that the debate, discussion and matters that were raised are very much sympathetic or analogous with the issues of concern within the community around the use of technology and they are worthy of being aired. Certainly, the benefits that will arise are also well and truly acknowledged, particularly around the protection of people's identification and ensuring that their identification is appropriate.

An important point to make, in the minute or so that I have left, is that technology is moving quickly in this space. We are seeing that the privatisation of identification technology is also moving, so it is an inevitable force and an inevitable outcome. The technology that we have on our phones today—probably even more so than when this was mooted on 5 October 2017, or maybe a year or so before when this matter was considered in the policy stages—is moving at such a rapid rate there is a certain air of inevitability. I will conclude my comments for now and come back to that. I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage.

[Leave granted for the member's speech to be continued at a later stage of the sitting.]

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the day's sitting, on motion by **Hon Pierre Yang**.