

TAXI AMENDMENT BILL 2016

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON JIM CHOWN (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.12 pm] — in reply: Some of the final comments I will make in the second reading reply on the Taxi Amendment Bill 2016 will answer some questions about the intention of stage 2 of the legislation. I am sure that all members present today are fully aware that stage 1 is a transitional bill that will create a simpler environment for the industry to provide safe, flexible and innovative services that meet customer expectations for reliability and affordability. Stage 2 is intended to be a single piece of legislation that will embrace and ensure a chain of accountability across all entities that deliver on-demand transport services, define the role of the regulator in what is now an information technology-driven environment, and provide appropriate tools and penalties that will ensure on-demand transport industry participants who are noncompliant are held accountable for their actions. Stage 2 will also result in the following changes to licences—namely, further adjustment of licence fees and charges set at the cost of regulation in line with the new legislation, and consistent licensing requirements and compliance powers in metropolitan and regional areas. In addition, other changes to be included in the second stage are as follows. All dispatch services, including app-based booking services, are to be accredited and/or sanctioned under the new act and subject to an application fee to cover the cost of administration and regulatory compliance; a chain of accountability framework will be embedded in legislation and supported by penalty provisions for breaches; and, a code of practice will be developed in consultation with industry that aligns with the accountability framework to assist industry to manage risks. It is anticipated that some announcements will be made on stage 2 by the new minister in November this year.

I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.