

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS AMENDMENT BILL 2002

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON NORMAN MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [4.45 pm]: Before the interruption of the debate, I said that this Bill was introduced on 10 December 2002 and that the Leader of the House had made a special request that we pass it expeditiously. It was probably one of a number of Bills that we agreed to pass expeditiously but never got a guernsey. We sat for an extra couple of weeks and achieved - I will not use the colloquial expression I might have otherwise used - less than we would have achieved if the Government had gone along with the Opposition's proposal.

There is no reason that the Bill should not be supported. Clearly, if the Crown Solicitor believes that the provision of grants by regional development commissions is not an acceptable or legal process, it must be fixed. Obviously these organisations must make grants available to those in their particular regions who are in need of funds. It is also appropriate that we should validate the actions taken since 1994 when the regional development commissions legislation was introduced to Parliament. Under those circumstances, the Opposition is happy to support the legislation.

HON MURRAY CRIDDLE (Agricultural) [4.46 pm]: I was very pleased to see this legislation come forward. It will validate those previous activities so valuable to regional WA. I hope that the minister follows and enhances the opportunity for further development in regional Western Australia.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Minister for Housing and Works) [4.46 pm]: I thank members for their support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate and passed.