

INTERPRETATION AND REPRINTS AMENDMENT BILL 2008

Second Reading

Resumed from 24 June.

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the Opposition) [7.36 pm]: I have been looking forward to the debate on this particular piece of legislation with great anticipation. This is a bill that I guess might be described as a machinery of government-type bill. This bill is actually the bill that was used in the Legislative Assembly as its privileges bill, which is the bill that the Legislative Assembly needs to introduce at the formation of a new Parliament; so this bill went before the Legislative Assembly when the Assembly first met after election in 2008.

This bill makes amendments to two acts, the Interpretation Act 1984 and the Reprints Act 1984. It amends the Interpretation Act by changing the large “G” in the body of the definition of “*Government Gazette*” to a small “g”. It also inserts a definition of “local government district” and inserts a definition of “paragraph”. The bill also provides for an amendment to the Reprints Act that will allow the future use of abbreviations; for example, a piece of legislation will be able to use the abbreviation “km” instead of the full word “kilometre”. It also makes changes to allow for important things such as the use of bold lettering and italics.

This bill is important to a stakeholder group that might be described as one of any government’s most influential and powerful stakeholder groups. That is parliamentary counsel. This is a very important piece of legislation for parliamentary counsel. It is important that we pass these changes. I am being a bit flippant. This is a useful machinery-of-government piece of legislation, and it is necessary. So, I do not mean to be flippant.

I thank the office of the Attorney General for providing me, as ever, with a very helpful briefing. It is interesting that I was advised during the course of my briefing that one of the acts that we are amending here—the Reprints Act—does not actually amend anything. It just omits the reference for the purposes of reprinting. But it does not actually of itself amend any of the acts that are reprinted. That is about the most interesting thing that I could find about this piece of legislation.

With those words, I indicate that the opposition is happy to support the bill.

HON ROBIN CHAPPLE (Mining and Pastoral) [7.39 pm]: I have pored over this Interpretation and Reprints Amendment Bill for hours and hours. It obviously has no impact on climate change. It has no effect on the south west forests. So, begrudgingly, we will be supporting this legislation.

HON MICHAEL MISCHIN (North Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary) [7.40 pm] — in reply: I thank honourable members for their contribution to the debate, erudite as always, and for their indication of support for the bill. There is nothing more I need to say on the matter so I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Hon Michael Mischin (Parliamentary Secretary)** and passed.