

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON JEREMY ROCKLIFF MP

Local Government (Highways) Amendment Bill 2019

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Madam Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

Madam Speaker, I present to the house today the Local Government (Highways) Amendment Bill 2019.

The purpose of this Bill is to modernise the legislation to reflect advances in parking payment technologies and also ensure the effective operation of controlled parking on State highways in municipal areas.

The Local Government (Highways) Act was drafted at a time when coins were the only option available to pay for parking. It is now timely to modernise the legislation to ensure that it reflects the range of payment options that are currently available and also future proof it going forward for new and emerging payment technologies.

While coins remain an option to pay for parking at parking meters and voucher machines, there is a trend towards offering the community greater choice and convenience with respect to parking payments.

Councils are increasingly providing options such as payment by credit or debit card and we are also seeing the uptake of new parking payment technologies that allow parking payments to be made via an application on a mobile phone or device.

It is foreseeable that this shift towards mobile phone or device-based parking technologies' will continue, particularly as these technologies become integrated with real-time information such as the availability of parking spaces. The Bill seeks to future-proof the legislation by introducing the concept of a 'virtual meter', which is defined as a 'piece of software that can be run on a computer, mobile phone or other electronic device and that allows payment to be made for parking in a

parking space.' The Bill also modernises the language used in legislation with respect to payment methods.

The legislation retains the requirement for parking meters or voucher machines to be available where there are parking spaces.

Madam speaker, the Bill also presents an opportunity to make some further amendments to the Local Government (Highways) Act to ensure the effective operation of controlled parking on State highways in municipal areas.

The Bill clarifies the respective powers of the Minister who has responsibility for State highways and the municipal councils regarding controlled parking on State highways. In particular, it provides that the Minister remains responsible for establishing the location and hours and days of operation of controlled parking on State highways, while councils are responsible for the day-to-day management of controlled parking and enforcement activities on State highways.

The Bill also addresses a statutory impediment in section 100 of the Local Government (Highways) Act to the Minister who has responsibility for State highways prescribing the penalty for parking infringements on State highways in municipal areas.

Finally, the Bill makes a number of minor and technical amendments designed to ensure the effective operation of controlled parking under the Local Government (Highways) Act.

Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.