

## **DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH**

**HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON MP**

### ***Food Amendment Bill 2015***

*\*check Hansard for delivery\**

Madam Speaker

I am pleased to bring before the house a Bill to amend Tasmania's food legislation.

This small but effective amendment will cut red tape and help Tasmanian food businesses reduce their operating costs.

The purpose of this Bill is to allow a greater range of mobile food businesses to apply for one single, state-wide registration – rather than having to register in every local government area in which they operate.

The Act currently requires certain food businesses to be registered with the local council in which they operate. Registrations may be granted for a temporary/one-off event, or granted for up to one year. There is an application process and each council charges a fee – typically between \$50 and \$350.

A small range of mobile food businesses conducted in a vehicle - such as ice cream vans or take-away food vans - have the option under section 88 of the Act to use a certificate of registration issued by one council to satisfy the registration requirement throughout the state.

This single registration option means the food business operator can register with the relevant council and importantly, pay only one fee.

This is a sensible clause but it applies very narrowly to those food businesses “conducted in a vehicle”. This provision does not accommodate the growth of the mobile food industry in which we see pizza ovens, custom built barbeques, and businesses operating from temporary structures such as booths, tents and trestle tables.

Owners of these businesses are currently required to obtain registration in every council area in which they operate – and I emphasise, there are 29 local government areas within Tasmania.

This is an inequitable situation for these mobile food businesses, and an ineffective and unnecessary duplication of council resources.

Madam Speaker, the effect of the proposed amendments is simply to extend the application section 88 beyond those just “conducted in a vehicle” to that wider group of food businesses using what we have defined as “mobile structures”.

Madam Speaker, this Bill will not diminish food regulation standards or safety in Tasmania – indeed it is expected that the administrative burden on councils to assess and process applications will be reduced, allowing Environmental Health Officers to concentrate on compliance and inspection activities in order to more effectively protect public health.

The *Food Amendment Bill* is another example of this government’s commitment to reducing red tape and demonstrating that Tasmania is open for business.

I commend the Bill to the House.