

REPEAL OF REGULATIONS POSTPONEMENT BILL

2011

SECOND READING SPEECH

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

Mr Speaker, this is the final Bill in a package of Bills developed to give effect to national Model Work Health and Safety laws in Tasmania and to make the necessary transitional arrangements and consequential amendments.

When speaking to the *Work Health and Safety Bill 2011*, I mentioned that although the Government intends to commence the new laws on 1 January 2011, the supporting regulations have suffered a number of delays at the national level. It remains possible that the commencement date for the Work Health and Safety Act and the Regulations could be

deferred due to circumstances outside the control of the Tasmanian Government.

Mr Speaker, this Bill is our 'insurance policy' in case such a delay occurs.

The repeal of the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 1998* was deferred until 1 January 2012 on the basis that new laws based on the national Model Work Health and Safety Act and Regulations will commence on that date. That is still the Government's expectation.

However, if any delays occur, and the repeal of the existing regulations proceeds, Tasmania will be left without any occupational health and safety regulations. This would be untenable.

It is therefore important that we retain the existing Workplace Health and Safety Regulations until they are replaced.

I hope we don't need this Bill, but I'm realistic enough to know that things can go wrong. Delays can occur despite the best planning. It is better to be prepared for such an event than to find ourselves facing a delay, without having a solution.

I commend this Bill to the House.