

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON JEREMY ROCKLIFF MP

Roads and Jetties Amendment (Management of State Highways in Cities) Bill 2018

check Hansard for delivery

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

Madam Speaker, as part of its plan to combat traffic congestion, the Government has committed to transferring four key urban roads from local government to the State Government.

In Hobart, the sections of Davey and Macquarie Streets that link between the Tasman Highway and the Southern Outlet will become State roads. Similarly, in Launceston, the sections of Wellington and Bathurst Streets that link between the Midland and East Tamar Highways will be transferred.

Madam Speaker, the amendments in the Bill before the House will facilitate these transfers and the effective management of the roads post transfer.

Where State roads pass through urban areas, the State Government is not responsible for maintaining the whole of the road reserve. Section 11 of the *Roads and Jetties Act* sets out how maintenance responsibilities are split up between State and local government. An additional clause is being inserted to define maintenance responsibilities for multi-lane one-way roads – a scenario that wasn't previously covered.

A new provision has also been included that will allow for the default maintenance responsibilities set in the Act to be overridden by specific agreements between the Minister and local government. This will provide more flexibility to ensure practical and reasonable outcomes when dealing with unusual situations.

Madam Speaker, the legislation that permits the use of parking meters currently applies to Council roads only. These amendments will permit parking meters on State roads as well, so that the

current parking arrangements on Davey and Macquarie Streets, and Wellington and Bathurst Streets, will not be affected by the transfer of ownership.

The State Government intends to negotiate agreements with the relevant local governments whereby they will remain responsible for the day-to-day management of parking controls, including enforcement activities.

Madam Speaker, illegally parked vehicles can cause substantial traffic congestion. While the owner of the vehicle can be fined, this does not resolve the congestion being caused. These amendments will give the State Government the power to tow away vehicles that are causing an obstruction in a location that is creating congestion or safety issues.

This approach has been adopted by mainland jurisdictions and the powers contained in the Bill mirror those that already operate in the State of Victoria.

Madam Speaker, this package of legislative amendments has been developed to create an improved congestion management regime for these important urban roads following their transfer from local government.

Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.