CROWN LAND (PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT) BILL 2009 AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE ACT 1962

SECOND READING SPEECH

Mr Speaker

In April 2008, the Department of Treasury and Finance, launched a three stage tender process for the sale and redevelopment of the *parliament square* Site.

The *parliament square* Site comprises eight buildings and part of the Parliamentary Annex. The Site is bordered by Murray Street, Davey Street, Salamanca Place and Parliament House. The third and final stage of the process is planned to close on 6 April 2009, with a preferred developer to be identified in July 2009.

To ensure an unambiguous sale process and to facilitate the redevelopment of the Site, the Government will be required to provide the developer with clear title to the Site.

Following extensive due diligence, two specific issues regarding title to the Site have been identified.

Firstly, there is a need to remove all doubt that there are outstanding issues on the Redevelopment Site in terms of ownership, or usage restrictions that may not be suitable to any future redevelopment opportunity.

Secondly, there is a need to address the current lack of clarity regarding the definitive land area and boundaries that are directly related to Parliament House and in particular, those areas currently outlined in Section 2 of the *Parliament House Act 1962*.

As part of the consultation for the Project Mr Speaker, Parliamentary Services has been extensively consulted. This has ensured that the future accommodation needs of Parliament House are met, and specifically:

- that the amount and grade of additional floor space provided as part of the replacement office accommodation on the Redevelopment Site, due to the part removal of the Parliamentary Annex, is consistent with the requirements of the Strategic Asset Management Plan for Parliament House;
- that the day to day operational management of Parliament House is not impeded in any way;
- to ensure flexibility for any future Parliamentary accommodation expansion requirements within the replacement office accommodation;
- to provide an appropriate set back between Parliament House and the Redevelopment Site, ensuring the Redevelopment Site does not limit any future activities to the rear of Parliament House; and
- to facilitate the relocation of the existing car parking from the front of Parliament House to a secure directly accessible location within the Redevelopment Site.

Mr Speaker, in order to provide clear title to be issued for the Redevelopment Site it is necessary to revoke any outstanding proclamations on the Site and on the laneway between Parliament House and the Redevelopment Site. This is the primary purpose of the Crown Land (Parliamentary Precinct Redevelopment) Bill 2009.

The Bill will also allow for easements to be created to ensure continued security, access and service requirements to Parliament House.

Mr Speaker, the consequential amendment to Section 2 of the *Parliament House Act 1962* will provide clarity regarding the full extent of Parliament House, grounds and gardens, thereby providing appropriate protection for the Parliamentary Precinct.

Indeed Mr Speaker, efforts to ensure protection of Parliament House have been ongoing, including recent discussions with the Joint House Committee. To further protect Parliament House into the future, I intend to move an amendment to the Bill to ensure that the laneway between Parliament House and the Redevelopment Site will not be sold by the Crown without approval of both Houses of Parliament.

In closing Mr Speaker, the intention of the Bill is to facilitate the issue of title for the Redevelopment Site while ensuring that the security, access and service requirements of Parliament are appropriately protected.

I commend the Bill to the House.