

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON JEREMY ROCKLIFF MP

Vehicle and Traffic 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 *Vehicle and Traffic Amendment Bill 2019*.

The purpose of this Bill is to ensure administrative efficiency surrounding the process for appointment of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles. The authority to appoint the Registrar of Motor Vehicles is under the *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999*, however, currently the machinery for that appointment is under the *State Service Act 2000* (State Service Act). As a result of this anomaly, the process for appointing a person to the office of Registrar is ambiguous and administratively restrictive.

It is considered that the Minister administering the Act, namely the Minister for Infrastructure, should be responsible for the appointment of the Registrar and not the Secretary of the Department responsible for administering the Act.

Also, consistent with other statutory appointments, it is considered that the appointment of Registrar must be made to a person with an office or position within the State Service.

The amendments to the *Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999* will regularise the appointment to ensure consistency with other statutory appointments, and standardise the administrative practice.

Madam Speaker, the proposed amendments will enable, as an example, the holder of a Senior Executive Service office created under the State Service Act called "Director of Registration and Licensing" to then be appointed by the Minister for Infrastructure to the statutory office of Registrar, and for both offices to be held simultaneously.

The proposed amendments also provide a more efficient method of making appointments when business arrangements change. These include temporary appointments when the substantive office holder is on leave, and any change to the title of the office. The Act, as it currently stands is administratively burdensome in both instances and creates unnecessary administrative

restrictions. As a final amendment, the Bill seeks to preserve any current appointment to that office.

Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.