

## Drug Misuse And Trafficking Amendment (Dangerous Exhibits) Bill

Second Reading

Corrected Copy 19/11/2002

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Bill introduced and read a first time.

## Second Reading

**Ms MEAGHER** (Cabramatta—Parliamentary Secretary), on behalf of Mr Debus [5.14 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Amendment (Dangerous Exhibits) Bill. The bill addresses the health and safety concerns of handling dangerous exhibits seized from illicit drug manufacture operations. Police are dismantling record numbers of clandestine laboratories that contain chemicals and are contaminated with dangerous and unstable combinations. These exhibits pose serious environmental and health and safety risks. This was highlighted recently when a police officer in full safety equipment received chemical burns to the eye while taking photographs of the exhibits.

This amendment will enable the prompt destruction of dangerous exhibits where there are clear safety reasons for doing so. This already occurs in other jurisdictions and complies with the requirements of the Australia New Zealand Standard for the Storage and Destruction of Drugs. The disposal of these exhibits will not impede court proceedings, which already allow for the tendering of analyst certificates, samples and photographic evidence in their place. I commend the bill to the House.

## Debate adjourned on motion by Mr R. H. L. Smith.

Bill Name:	Drug Misuse And Trafficking Amendment (Dangerous Exhibits) Bill
Stage:	Second Reading
Business Type:	Bill
Keywords:	2R
Speakers:	Meagher, Ms
Database:	LA Hansard Extracts - 52nd Parliament of NSW / 523pa062 / 29

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