



Drug Misuse And Trafficking Amendment (Dangerous Exhibits) Bill

Second Reading

Corrected
Copy
05/12/2002

DRUG MISUSE AND TRAFFICKING AMENDMENT (DANGEROUS EXHIBITS) BILL

Page: 7874

Second Reading

The Hon. IAN MACDONALD (Parliamentary Secretary) [12.20 a.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The Government is pleased to introduce the *Drug Misuse And Trafficking Amendment (Dangerous Exhibits) Bill 2002*.

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 which contain chemicals and equipment contaminated with dangerous and unstable chemical combinations.

The exhibits from these laboratories pose serious environmental and health and safety risks. The dangers were highlighted recently when a police officer in full safety equipment received chemical burns to the eye while taking photographs of the exhibits.

The amendment is designed to enable the prompt destruction of dangerous exhibits where there are clear safety reasons for doing so. It reflects legislation 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 prejudice court proceedings, which already allow for the tendering of analyst certificates, samples and photographic evidence in the place of these exhibits.

I commend the bill to the House.

The Hon. IAN COHEN [12.20 a.m.]: The Greens support what is apparently a straightforward bill which provides for the destruction or other disposal of exhibits that have been seized in connection with proceedings for drug-related offences if the exhibits are a threat to health or safety. The related Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act allows orders to be obtained by a magistrate to dispose of exhibits. This bill will provide for police officers of or above the rank of superintendent to make orders for the destruction or other disposal of exhibits when analysts certify this to be the proper course of action.

I am advised that such action is taken in relation primarily to chemicals that can be dangerous to store, chemicals that become old, and chemicals that may be a danger to authorities who have to deal with them. For example, there have been instances of damage being caused to the eyes of those responsible for the storage of such substances. In addition, these materials stored in a less than regulated manner can explode at times. I understand the bill to be directed at chemicals such as Ecstasy and Speed—amphetamine-type chemicals that are produced in backyard chemistry or

workshop situations. When exhibits are clearly assessed they can be adequately disposed of. The Greens support this bill as a basic safety measure, particularly for those who have to handle such chemicals after arrests have been made. The bill provides a straightforward and effective way of safely disposing of chemicals that are the product of illicit drug making.

The Hon. MICHAEL GALLACHER (Leader of the Opposition) [12.23 a.m.]: The Opposition is pleased to support the bill.

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE [12.23 a.m.]: The Christian Democratic Party supports the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Amendment (Dangerous Exhibits) Bill. Obviously the police are finding more and more clandestine laboratories that contain chemicals and equipment used to produce many of the tablets and drugs, such as Ecstasy, that are sold at rave parties and so on. In that regard chemists and other shops have been issued with warnings to ensure the security of some of the common health tablets that may be purchased over the counter. Apparently, Sudafed and other tablets are broken down to produce the chemicals that can be used to aid the production of illegal drugs. It would be a sad occurrence indeed if police were to be injured whilst handling such chemicals. We support the bill.

The Hon. IAN MACDONALD (Parliamentary Secretary) [12.24 a.m.], in reply: I thank honourable members for their contributions to this debate. The bill will allow the prompt destruction or disposal of dangerous exhibits where there are clear environmental and safety health reasons for doing so. I commend the bill to the House.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time and passed through remaining stages.

Bill Name:	Drug Misuse And Trafficking Amendment (Dangerous Exhibits) Bill
Stage:	Second Reading
Business Type:	Bill, Debate
Keywords:	2R
Speakers:	Nile, Reverend The Hon Fred; Macdonald, The Hon Ian; Cohen, The Hon Ian; Gallacher, The Hon Michael
Database:	LC Hansard Extracts - 52nd Parliament of NSW / 523pc068 / 60

[Next Page](#)
[Previous Page](#)