



Legislative Assembly

Parliamentary Remuneration

Amendment (Recognised Office

Holder) Bill Hansard

Extract

18/06/2002

Second Reading

Mr WHELAN (Strathfield—Parliamentary Secretary) [5.17 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government has agreed to introduce this bill to amend the Parliamentary Remuneration Act following representations from the Opposition. The bill will enable the deputy leader in the Legislative Council of a recognised political party with not fewer than nine members in the Legislative Council to receive an additional salary and expense allowance. The Parliamentary Remuneration Act provides that certain recognised office holders specified in schedule 1 to the Act are entitled to receive an additional salary and expense allowance. In May 1996 schedule 1 to the Act was amended by regulation to insert, as a recognised office holder, the position of deputy leader in the Legislative Council of a political party with no fewer than 10 members in the Legislative Council.

From the commencement of the amendment, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council became entitled to receive an additional salary and expense allowance. As a result of the March 1999 election, the number of members of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council was reduced to nine. However, the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council continued to receive the additional salary and allowance, in error, for more than a year after March 1999. The Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party in the Legislative Council has continued to perform this role. There is no suggestion that the responsibilities of the role have been reduced in any significant way because the number of Liberal Party members of the Legislative Council has fallen from 10 to nine. Accordingly, the Government has agreed to introduce the bill.

The bill amends schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act to provide that the deputy leader in the Legislative Council of a recognised political party with no fewer than nine members is entitled to receive an additional salary and expense allowance. That is, the bill replaces the current requirement for 10 members with a new requirement for nine members. The bill also provides that the amendment will take effect from 27 March 1999. I commend the bill to the House.