

Second Reading

The Hon. GREG PEARCE (Minister for Finance and Services, and Minister for the Illawarra) [9.31 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Local Government Amendment (Roadside Vehicle Sales) Bill 2011 proposes that the Local Government Act be amended to give councils the power to erect notices to prohibit the parking of a vehicle on a road or road-related area for the purpose of offering the vehicle for sale. Like other activities undertaken contrary to notices erected by councils, contravention of the notice would constitute an offence that attracts a maximum fine of 10 penalty units, which presently equates to \$1,100. In addition, the offence would be one for which a penalty notice may be issued, currently \$110. Penalty notices of this type may be issued by the police and council rangers. The penalty notice system would operate following the amendment, which will explicitly allow the signage erected to be enforceable.

The object of the bill is to deter persons from parking vehicles on roads for the purposes of sale in circumstances in which that is likely to cause inconvenience or loss of amenity to nearby residents and businesses. Victoria Street, Potts Point, and Brougham Street, Woolloomooloo, have been identified as places where this activity presents concern for the council of the City of Sydney and local residents. Local residents are understandably upset because this stops them accessing local parking and makes it extremely difficult for delivery vans to park while they service local businesses. While very mindful of these concerns, the Government has recommended to the City of Sydney council alternative measures that can be implemented under existing legislation. These include time-restricted parking and metered parking. However, I am advised that these alternatives are opposed by the residents and business operators in the locality.

Nevertheless, the Government readily acknowledges that the residents and business operators in the locality face problems with this activity. The Government proposes the amendments so as to provide affected residents and business operators with early relief from issues arising from the sale of vehicles on these residential streets. That is why the action that the Government is taking will complement the City of Sydney council's decision to reinstate a section of a local car park as a designated park and sell point for backpacker vehicles. Having an alternative park-and-sell location is important to the Government as the people who own these campervans contribute to our tourism industry. I also emphasise that this legislation will not restrict mums and dads anywhere else who have their cars for sale from parking their vehicles in their street.

Although this issue appears to be localised to the Sydney city council area, other councils that may experience these types of issues in the future will be able to apply to the Minister for Local Government to include their local government area in the regulation. The Government believes this problem is an isolated issue, unique to Victoria Street, Potts Point, and Brougham Street, Woolloomooloo, and does not require legislation of statewide application. I commend the bill to the House.