

Submission
No 1

INQUIRY INTO STATE SENATE BILL 2015

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Submission- State Senate Bill 2015

I am a 15 year old student who goes to a high school in Sydney, and would like to share my views on the State Senate Bill 2015.

The proposal of giving the Legislative Council the option to be called the 'State Senate' and the option for members of the legislative council to be called 'State Senators' is a trivial issue. It is a small part that seems insignificant. No negative implications will result for the people of the council or the people of the general public as a result of taking up this issue. The contents of the State Senate Bill have been debated for a long time, as proposed bills should be, however, it's clear that giving the option of an alternative name will not cause any harm to anyone and may even help with the interpretation of the Legislative Council and its members. Cooperating and letting the bill go through will be harmless, as well as allowing more important issues to be focused on nearer in the future.

Changing the name clears up any confusion about the name for school children and foreigners. From what can be read in the Hansard from previous debates about this topic, allowing the alternate naming makes clearer the role of the Legislative Council. People in countries such as the United States of America will better understand the name of the house and its members if an alternate name is used, which allows for more convenient communication and understanding of each other. Furthermore, as a current high school student, I can say that by likening the name of the chamber in state parliament to that in Federal Parliament, any confusion about the Upper House will be relatively abolished and the houses better understood. You would be surprised as to what a difference a name makes when studying many subjects at once. The option of having an alternative name is a small thing, but would also a convenience to others.

In reading the Hansard of the previous debates, I have become acquainted with the views of those who are against the passing of the State Senate Bill. It appears to me that the main reason for opposing the bill is that it is a waste of time and more important issues should be considered. I agree with this statement, but not in the same way as those who oppose. The issue has become a waste of time not because of the bill itself but because of the arguing against the bill. By repeatedly saying that the bill is unnecessary, those who oppose the notion are being frivolous themselves. This inadvertent contradiction is an inconvenience to everyone. Therefore, in order to have more of this 'time' to focus on other issues, allow the bill to be passed. Getting it out of the way quickly is the best thing to do for everyone, even those who oppose, as there is nothing really harmful to oppose anyway.

Another statement that has come across from a person in opposition in reading the Hansard is: "people should be able to say, 'He did something worthwhile', not 'He was a Senator of New South Wales.'" (Quote referring to the Hon. Fred Nile) I disagree with this statement on two grounds. The first is my personal ideology of: It's not about how you are remembered; it's just what you do in the moment. It's not important to speculate how this issue will be remembered, rather the importance lies in resolving the issue now. The second is that I believe everything is worthwhile. As discussed in the first point, the State Senate Bill has a

purpose that will not harm, but benefit, even if the benefit is small. The passing of this bill doesn't hurt Nile's reputation as a member of the Legislative Council at all, so people can still acknowledge the fact that he is a senator as well as honouring his works.

Don't spend too much time on this issue. It takes away from the big topics that are to be discussed later. However, consider the little, trivial and novel nature of this issue. In life, it's important to pay attention to detail and appreciate the small things, no matter how silly they seem. This issue is a clear example of that situation. Savour this small oddity, enjoy it even. Maybe it's just the activist teenager in me, but I think this issue is important and should definitely be taken forward.