

revenue has doubled in the same period. Housing is a basic primary need for families to shelter their own so that they can make a worthy contribution to the communities they choose to work and live in.

Finally we note the gains being made by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water on proceeding with the laying of the water-piping lifeline that has been so long in the making. Roads, especially the Princes Highway west of Geelong and the Wimmera Highway west of Ballarat, remain major concerns, with accidents and fatalities far exceeding acceptable levels that only highway duplication will address.

Probably one of the remain significant frustrations being faced is in our fishing industry. The plight of abalone fishers along the south-west coast at Port Fairy and Portland, where an unchecked virus is creating havoc, may cause the industry untold damage. Already we have seen the shell harvest down by 90 per cent in some beds and licence values have fallen by over 45 per cent in recent months.

Let me assure you, President, that all is not lost in Western Victoria Region by a long shot, but the government needs to deliver on all its election promises, with one exception. The Cobboobonee national park proposal comes at a great community cost and is not supported by locals. For reasons yet to be understood, Premier, flew into Portland to make this announcement without any consultation and against the local advisory committee's recommendation. How are communities that have done so much to protect and preserve these environments for their residents expected to accept these non-apprehensible actions for short-sighted political gain?

Like everyone else in the house, I look forward to continuing to make a valuable contribution to the Parliament of Victoria, in my case as Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council. I also look forward to continuing to represent all my constituents in Western Victoria over the next four years.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mrs COOTE (Southern Metropolitan).

Debate adjourned until next day.

INTERPRETATION OF LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Statement of compatibility

Mr LENDERS (Minister for Education) tabled following statement in accordance with Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act:

In accordance with section 28 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, I make this statement of compatibility with respect to the Interpretation of Legislation Amendment Bill 2006.

In my opinion, the Interpretation of Legislation Amendment Bill 2006, as introduced in the Legislative Council, is compatible with the human rights protected by the charter. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of the bill

The bill amends the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 by providing for the updating of acts and statutory rules to bring them into conformity with current drafting styles.

Human rights issues

1. *Human rights protected by the charter that are relevant to the bill*

The bill does not raise any human rights issues.

2. *Consideration of reasonable limitations — section 7(2)*

As the bill does not raise any human rights issues, it does not limit any human right and therefore it is not necessary to consider section 7(2) of the charter.

Conclusion

I consider that the bill is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities because it does not raise a human rights issue.

Justin Madden, MLC

Second reading

Ordered that second-reading speech be incorporated on motion of Mr LENDERS (Minister for Education).

For **Hon. J. M. MADDEN** (Minister for Planning),
Mr Lenders (Minister for Education) — I move:

That the bill be now read a second time.

Incorporated speech as follows:

The Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 makes provision for the construction, operation and the shortening of language used in acts of Parliament and subordinate instruments.

The bill has been recommended by chief parliamentary counsel in order to provide for the updating of acts and statutory rules to bring them into conformity with current