

acts of appreciation that I was glad to be present at deserve to be praised. The Casey community volunteer awards for 2007 formally recognise the value that the local community places on volunteering and celebrates some of the outstanding efforts of individuals and organisations. This year there was a record number of nominations.

In the innovation category 20 groups were nominated, with the award being won by two of my favourite groups, the Casey North Community Information and Support Service and the Cranbourne Information and Support Service and its project, the Casey no-interest loan scheme. The no-interest loan scheme is run by trained volunteer loan officers, who provide an accessible source of credit to low-income earners to buy household goods. Stanley Birkett, Helen Jones, Una McGuire and Julie Jones all help out under the enthusiastic guidance of Sue Naden Magee and Leanne Petrides. They thoroughly deserve their award, as they do a demanding job.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Ingram) — Order! The member's time has expired, and the time for statements by members has expired.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Statement of compatibility

Ms NEVILLE (Minister for Mental Health) 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 Planning and Environment Amendment Bill 2007.

In my opinion, the Planning and Environment Amendment Bill 2007 as introduced in the Legislative Assembly is compatible with the human rights protected by the charter. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of bill

The bill makes procedural changes to facilitate operation of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Transfer of Land Act 1958 and the Subdivision Act 1988.

Human rights issues

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

Privacy

The bill changes the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requirement that the planning register be kept in a

prescribed form to a requirement that it include prescribed information.

The existing form of the register includes the name and address of the applicant for a permit. The change to the act facilitates a review of the content of the register to take account of current privacy standards. This will be done in developing the new regulations prescribing the content of the register. The bill does not authorise any recording or publication of private information, beyond what is already authorised under the act.

Other human rights

Other human rights are not affected by the provisions of this bill.

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

No provisions of the bill limit or restrict human rights.

Conclusion

The bill does not adversely affect human rights.

JOHN THWAITES, MP
Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change

Second reading

Ms NEVILLE (Minister for Mental Health) — I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

In 2006, the then Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Elaine Carbines, conducted wide-ranging consultation to improve the operation of the planning system. Ms Carbines produced an excellent report, *Cutting Red Tape in Planning*, making recommendations for a program to improve the operation of the planning system. Many of these are procedural, while the implementation of others requires legislative change.

Good progress has been made implementing the procedural changes, with 15 major milestones completed. I will outline a few of the highlights so far.

The government has introduced a faster process for planning scheme amendments that removes unnecessary controls and has imposed tough performance targets on the Department of Sustainability and Environment for processing planning scheme amendments. These are 15 days for authorisation and 30 days for approval of planning scheme amendments. At the same time the authority of DSE regional directors has been increased to assist them in achieving these targets. The certainty provided by this initiative has been welcomed by all users of the planning system.