

The SPEAKER — Order! What is the point of order?

Mr Thompson — It promised it would be open and accountable. In the last question time in the last — —

The SPEAKER — Order! Does the member have a point of order?

Mr Thompson — I have not had time to state it yet, Speaker.

The SPEAKER — Order! Then the member should state the point of order initially, and not enter into a long-winded debate before he gets to the point of order.

Mr Thompson — The Bracks government when it came into office promised it would be open and accountable. In the last question time of the last sitting week, the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment misled the house in relation to the position of the federal Minister for Vocational and Further Education, when she suggested that Victoria was an outstanding performer as a consequence of the Bracks government's investment in education.

The SPEAKER — Order! This is not a point of order.

Mr Thompson — This is clearly not the case — —

The SPEAKER — Order! There is no point of order.

including maintaining the congestion levy at 2006 rates for certain areas, an increase in the threshold for land tax and a reduction in some of the land tax rates, the abolition of special land tax in certain circumstances and a change in the rate of duty for new passenger cars valued between \$35 000 and \$57 009.

The bill will also reform wagering commissions by removing the 16 per cent annual cap on commissions that can be deducted from a totalisator by the wagering operator, freezing commissions for existing bet types at their current level and requiring the wagering operator to make a betting rule setting the maximum amount of commission for any new bet type at not more than 25 per cent of the amount invested.

The bill will increase the amount that the gaming operators and the casino operator must pay by way of the health benefit levy by \$1300 per gaming machine to \$4333.33 per gaming machine.

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.

JOHN BRUMBY, MP
Treasurer

STATE TAXATION AND GAMBLING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (BUDGET MEASURES) BILL

Statement of compatibility

Mr BRUMBY (Treasurer) 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 State Taxation and Gambling Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2007.

In my opinion, the State Taxation and Gambling Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2007, as introduced to 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 purpose of the State Taxation and Gambling Legislation Amendment (Budget Measures) Bill 2007 is to introduce a number of measures announced in the 2007–08 budget,

Second reading

Mr BRUMBY (Treasurer) — I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

This government handed down its 2007–08 budget on 1 May 2007 and continues our focus of removing business costs.

The government will amend the Duties Act 2000 by reducing duty on new passenger cars valued between \$35 000 and \$57 009 to 2.5 per cent — the same rate as for new passenger cars valued at less than \$35 000.

This means, for example, that the purchaser of a new passenger car with a value of \$40 000 will now pay \$600 less in duty, and for a car valued at \$50 000 the saving will be \$1250. The reduced rate will also apply to 'near new' passenger cars initially registered as demonstrators by licensed motor car traders but then onsold within 60 days.

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