SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr STONE (Public Employment): Mr Speaker, I move that so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent 2 bills, the Public Sector Employment and Management Bill (Serial 193) and the Public Sector Employment and Management (Transition and Savings) Bill (Serial 198): (a) being presented and read a first time together and one motion being put in regard to, respectively, the second readings, the committee's report stage, and the third readings of the bills together; and (b) the consideration of the bills separately in the committee of the whole.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT BILL (Serial 193)
PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT (TRANSITION AND SAVINGS) BILL (Serial 198)

Bills presented and read a first time.

Mr STONE (Public Employment): Mr Speaker, I move that the bills be now read a second time.

Mr Speaker, I seek leave to have my second-reading speech incorporated in Hansard.

Motion agreed to.

It is with much pleasure that I introduce these very important pieces of legislation into the Assembly. The bills represent a major overhaul of employment and management arrangements for most of the government's work force. They have been developed after considerable consultation with departments and authorities, with unions and with employees generally. As I said in my statement, when I tabled a discussion draft of the main bill in this Assembly on 19 August 1992: "Effective and efficient management of the public sector is a key issue for any government and for the community at large".

Because the public sector constitutes a significant proportion of the Territory's work force, legislation governing it is of particular importance in the Territory. It is for this reason that a great deal of consultation and care has gone into the preparation of these bills. They are designed not simply to bring the legislative arrangements for managing the public sector up to date. They are designed also to provide a firm yet flexible legislative framework for at least the next decade. The Public Sector Employment and Management Bill is not simply designed to reflect best practice in public sector human resource management. It is designed also to accommodate a number of the pressing demands of the national agenda for structural change and structural efficiency.

All members of the Assembly are well aware of the nature and extent of the challenges and impact of structural change on the Australian work force. There is a metamorphosis occurring in the manner in which work is designed and performed, in the way in which the work force is to be trained and educated and in the way in which this country manages its industrial relations. The public sector is in