

stating that a club licensee has to make any contribution and, to date, different clubs have made contributions of varying quality and amounts, both in monetary and non-monetary form.

The bill introduces provisions that clearly specify a club licensee is expected to make a community benefit contribution and that the minister can issue directions in relation to how the community benefit contribution is to be calculated; the type and nature of contributions that are of benefit to the community; the reporting, accountability and acquittal process that a licensee must use; the minimum rate of contribution and other relevant matters.

Cancellation, suspension, etcetera of gaming machine licences: up to now, the financial capacity of a licensee is assessed only at the application stage. Once a licence has been issued, there is no mechanism for the review of a licensee's ongoing financial capacity to meet payouts and other financial obligations. As a player protection measure, clause 11 of the bill amends section 49 of the act by adding another criterion that the Licensing Commission can use to determine the ongoing suitability of a licensee and, if necessary, take action before players are affected.

Consideration of application: the NCP Review report noted that there are a variety of legislative provisions covering different types of licensing for certain gaming industry employees across areas such as casinos, Internet gaming and community gaming. Clause 12 of the bill proposes to amend section 64 of the *Gaming Machine Act* to adopt the same licensing approach for gaming machine managers as that of casino employees.

Audit of accounts: the bill proposes to amend section 146 of the *Gaming Machine Act* which requires the licensee to prepare and lodge with the Director of Licensing and Audit an account of gaming activity. Audited accounts from each licensee serve no useful purpose and represent a duplication of effort, as the information is readily available through the gaming machine monitoring service provider, currently performed by Unitab Gaming. This amendment was not a specific consequence of the NCP Review, but legitimises the current practise of the Director of Licensing to relieve each licensee from the requirement to submit an audited account of gaming activity.

The amendment also seeks to make the financial information available more useful by requiring licensees to maintain general financial reports that deal with the operation as a whole. This information need only be provided on request rather than annually submitted. This will help the licensing authority identify any change in the financial

viability of the licensee and, if necessary, refer the matter to the Licensing Commission for deliberation.

That completes the proposed amendments to the *Gambling Machine Act*.

I have previously covered the amendments to the *Soccer Football Pools Act* when discussing the common amendments that apply to all three acts. There are no further or specific changes to the *Soccer Football Pools Act*. This concludes all the amendments.

Madam Speaker, the bills that I have today introduced address key recommendations contained within the National Competition Policy review into gaming in the Northern Territory that require legislative attention. This action reaffirms the government's commitment to National Competition Policy principles and the reform process. I commend the bill to honourable members.

Debate adjourned.

UNCOLLECTED GOODS BILL
(Serial 217)
UNCOLLECTED GOODS (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL
(Serial 218)

Continued from 31 March 2004.

Ms CARNEY (Araruen): Madam Speaker, both bills are supported. I compliment the Attorney-General on the second reading speech; it was very thorough.

No doubt many have said that these reforms are overdue. I am not sure that that is a universally held position. However, as a lawyer in a past life who did have recourse to these acts, I can attest to the fact that some parts of them were very difficult and cumbersome and, certainly, costly for some clients.

The bills are supported by a range of industries. We have contacted them. In particular, I have contacted the Law Society and spoke with members of the profession. I know my colleague, the member for Drysdale, has spoken with motor vehicle tradesmen and some other industry sectors, the details of which I cannot recall. However, between us we have extensively consulted about these bills and the consensus, although not universal, is that these bills are welcome and, on that basis, we support them.

As a lawyer, I will quietly lament the passing of the terms 'bailee' and 'bailor'. However, that is not something that should trouble many other people in the Northern Territory.