

to be made mandatory. However, should one be obtained by virtue of the provisions of the *Traffic Act* or by consent, the reading obtained would be admissible as evidence. The Sessional Committee on Use and Abuse of Alcohol by the Community deals with the problems associated with the enforcement of section 102 of the *Liquor Act* and has supported previously what is being proposed in this submission.

The impact of the misuse and abuse of alcohol has broad-ranging effects on our community. Intoxication is seen as a major contributing factor in street offences, malicious damage, road accidents and incidents of domestic violence. The intention of these amendments is to reinforce the provisions of the *Liquor Act* as it applies to the serving of intoxicated persons. It is important that all licensees shoulder the full responsibility that comes with being granted the privilege to sell intoxicating liquor. These amendments will significantly improve the prospects of successful prosecution against those who abdicate this responsibility.

It is 3 months to the next sittings. Certainly, we expect that, during that period, not only will the detail of the bill be examined but also, and more pertinently, the liquor industry will start to pursue some of these matters. I understand it will enter into another training program. It is expected that licensees will prepare themselves for what will be far tighter legislation that is designed to ensure simply that intoxicated persons are not served on licensed premises. I commend the bill to honourable members.

Debate adjourned.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr STONE (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the *Fire and Emergency Bill* (Serial 140) and the *Fire and Emergency (Consequential Amendments) Bill* (Serial 141) passing through all stages at these sittings.

Mr EDE (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, after agonising over this, we have decided that we will not oppose urgency. I do not believe that the argument ...

Mrs Padgham-Purich: It has to go through because of the fire season.

Mr EDE: What month was Cyclone Max?

Mrs Padgham-Purich: I have a personal interest in this.

Mr EDE: Cyclone Max was in May.

Mr Coulter: You do not live out there.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr EDE: I do not think it is for the Leader of Government Business to say when the wet season finishes. He may believe that he has control of the fire season, but I understand the wet season is still in the hands of the Lord.