

Such an important piece of legislation needs longer than that. The scrutiny committee needs plenty of time to allow people, especially those who put in submissions about the *Sex Discrimination Act*, to look at this bill, provide comment, and have the opportunity to put their views to the scrutiny committee.

I thought there would be technical changes to the *Marriage Act*—which, for better or worse, occurred in Australia—in regard to who is married and who is not. It has gone further than that. I ask the government, even if it has to be done by a certain date and they believe that to be the case, to approach the Commonwealth Government and ask for an extension of time. Explain the reasons why and the world will not come to an end if these things are not changed overnight.

It is inappropriate to debate these things in such a short time because they are important issues to be debated. They should be debated carefully with knowledge of the implications. You can say these changes will be for a certain group of people, but there is a larger group of people who can be affected by those changes. That larger group of people needs to also be represented in this parliament. I do not think it is.

This government, to some extent, bends over backwards on popular views of how things are. It sometimes forgets the bigger picture—the average Joe Blow and Mrs Blow. They are sometimes not listened to or do not even know what is happening in their society.

Once again, I ask the government to send this through the normal scrutiny committee process. If it needs an exemption from the Commonwealth Government, then ask it for that. I think most people who believe this bill is so important that it should not be rushed will also support any submission to the Commonwealth Government to allow more time to debate this important issue.

Ms FYLES (Attorney-General and Justice)(by leave): Madam Speaker, I am advised that these are consequential amendments and that they are needed to strengthen our compliance to the *Sex Discrimination Act*, which talks about gender and the changes to the *Marriage Act*.

We have sent this to the scrutiny committee to seek its advice. It was not intended to rush something through under the guise of something else. This is the advice I received from my agency and this is why I am presenting the bill in this way. I did not mean to deliberately mislead. It is the advice I have.

In regard to the standing orders and passage of the bill, we all acknowledge that. We are reviewing the Standing Orders Committee with the scrutiny committees. We are in the process of, hopefully, writing to all members to seek their feedback because there are different types of bills and requirements. We want to provide that scrutiny but we also need the wheels of government to continue to turn.

In reply to the comments from the Member for Nelson, the advice I have had is that they are consequential amendments arising from the *Marriage Act* and the *Sex Discrimination Act*, which strengthens our compliance. The scrutiny committee, of course, can look at that in detail and provide us as an Assembly with that advice. We have 30 days, which traditionally was how long we had to look at a bill. I am sure there can be a body of work done over the next 30 days.

This is an emotive debate and was not intended to side-step that. This is acting on advice from our agency. I thank the member for his comments.

Motion agreed to.

ANIMAL PROTECTION BILL (Serial 44)

Continued from 8 February 2018.

Mr VOWLES (Primary Industry and Resources): Madam Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a second time.

Mr HIGGINS (Opposition Leader): Madam Speaker, Territorians love their animals. I know you do and you know I do. This special bond was demonstrated publicly when Territorians were horrified at the barbaric execution of a pony at Fannie Bay Equestrian Club last year. I know you were personally and deeply appalled, as I was, by this senseless tragedy—and rightly so.

Territorians demanded action and I am happy to say that as a parliament we have listened. There are many issues for which there should be no time for partisan politics. Defending the defenceless is a priority of the