

Mr MANZIE: It is an add-on, but it will be dealt with separately in the committee stage. I have asked that the bills be dealt with separately in the committee stage. It is an easy way to do it. That is all.

Mr Ede: We are being kind.

Mr MANZIE: It will be dealt with separately. I do not intend to lump it together with the other 2.

What I am saying is that the other 2 bills will cover the national transport charging processes and I do not want to see the Territory increasing charges for Territory operators without them obtaining the benefits that are available under this national approach. If uniformity means that we are in there doing it and no one else is, there is no advantage to our industry but there will be an increase in charges. We do not want to be in a position where that will happen. However, it is important that we be ready to apply this on 1 July if everyone else is. I commend the bills to honourable members.

Debate adjourned.

PROCUREMENT BILL (Serial 53)

Continued from 30 November 1994.

Mr EDE (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, this is a short bill, but a very important one. It relates to this document, *Procurement Policy and Strategies*, and provides that each of the various parts of the process is broken up. Thus, today we are to debate the *Procurement Bill* and next week we will debate the *Audit Bill* and the *Financial Management Bill*.

The *Procurement Bill* incorporates certain aspects from other parts. It contains provision for exemptions that are quite broad. We will examine them in the committee stage. It allows the minister, in writing, to exempt accountable officers from the need to comply. It also allows the minister to direct a disclosure of information as he thinks fit. It continues the Procurement Review Boards. The Procurement Review Boards are not required specifically to report. We have circulated amendment schedule 21 in that regard, and the minister wishes to make some remarks about that, possibly in closing the second-reading debate or in the committee stage.

I want to talk about the *Procurement Policy and Strategies* document. I had extensive discussions with industry about this some 12 to 18 months ago. At that stage, there was a fair degree of support. There was some nervousness late last year as to whether the bureaucrats had rolled the politicians and whether it would ever get moving. I had a discussion with the Minister for Industries and Development at that time and he assured me that that was not the case. The *Procurement Policy and Strategies* document sets out the actual policy. There is a series of policy principles which are excellent. It refers to open and effective competition and what that means and what it does not allow. It talks about value for money and what that means, and the capabilities of local business and industry and how we are to work in that context. That is not simply Northern Territory industry, but also Australian and New Zealand