



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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CONSUMER CREDIT [QUEENSLAND] AMENDMENT BILL

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (5.33 p.m.): I rise to speak briefly in support of the Consumer Credit (Queensland) Amendment Bill brought to this House by the Minister for Fair Trading, Merri Rose. The legislation will force providers of credit to declare their real rate of interest, that is, the interest rate including any fees or charges, on a standardised basis. It will mean that people looking to take out a home, car or personal loan can for the first time make meaningful comparisons of an array of loans. It will help Ipswich people, who have better things to do than spend hours leafing through small print about bank loans, make informed up-front decisions.

I commend Merri Rose and other Australian fair trading ministers for their perseverance in delivering these reforms. I note that some self-interested bodies, such as the Australian Bankers Association, have resisted the introduction of comparison rates by arguing that standardised comparison rates cannot take into account changes in interest rates and the effect of paying off a loan early. While these limitations undoubtedly exist, they are by no means a reason to abandon the principle of comparing loans on like terms.

This legislation follows the Beattie government's moves last year to regulate money lenders. This is another significant change in the interests of consumers—that is, in the interests of real people. I commend the bill to the House.