

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Supplementary Order Paper

Tuesday, 15 September 1992

PASSPORTS BILL

Proposed Amendments

Hon. GRAEME LEE, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

Clause 23: To insert in line 18 on page 12, after the word "stolen", the words "or destroyed or is temporarily unavailable".

Clause 35: To insert in line 24 on page 19, after the word "airports", the words "and sea ports".

Clause 36: To insert in line 36 on page 20, after the word "airports", the words "and sea ports".

Clause 37: To add to this clause on page 22, as subclause (3), the following subclause:

(3) Nothing in section 35 or section 36 of this Act shall prevent or limit any other disclosure of the information which may be otherwise required or authorised by or under law.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Clause 23: The proposed amendment extends the power of the Minister to issue an emergency travel document to cover situations where a person's passport has been destroyed or is temporarily unavailable, provided the other criteria set out in the clause are satisfied. A passport may be temporarily unavailable where, for example, the passport has been packed in luggage sent ahead or is held in storage.

Clause 35: The proposed amendment is to take account of the fact that the Customs Automated Passenger Processing System encompasses passenger arrivals and departures at sea ports, as well as at international airports, in New Zealand.

Clause 36: The current clause provides that information may be disclosed to the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs of Australia for the purpose of facilitating, at international airports in Australia, border security and the processing of passengers. The proposed amendment takes account of use that may be made of the information at sea ports in Australia.

Clause 37: The proposed amendment is intended to rebut any inference that passport information can only be disclosed in the circumstances referred to in *clauses 35 and 36*. For example, the disclosure of information contained in individual passport applications is currently a matter governed by the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. *Clauses 35 and 36* are not intended to limit this and other situations where the Department of Internal Affairs already has power to disclose information.