



Hon. Robert McClelland MP
Attorney-General

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 12th May 2011

ACTS INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT TO MAKE LEGISLATION MORE ACCESSIBLE

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today introduced the *Acts Interpretation Amendment Bill 2011* into Parliament, which will make it easier for people to understand and interpret Commonwealth legislation.

Mr McClelland said the Bill will update and modernise the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901*, which provides overarching rules for interpreting all Commonwealth legislation

“This is the first comprehensive review of this important piece of legislation in over a hundred years,” Mr McClelland said.

“This Bill will update the language and concepts of the *Acts Interpretation Act*, bringing it into the 21st century.

“This is a major step towards reducing the complexity of Commonwealth legislation. The measures contained in this Bill will assist in making the law more accessible and easier to understand.

“The Bill significantly improves the clarity of the Act, but does not change the underlying policy of the Act,” Mr McClelland said.

The Bill will ensure that the important rules and definitions contained within the Act are easier to find and understand.

It also reduces the size of the Commonwealth statute book by including a number of new general rules and definitions, which avoids the need to repeat these in other Commonwealth Acts.

“The Bill supports the Government’s work to improve the accessibility of the civil justice system through the *Strategic Framework for Access to Justice*,” Mr McClelland said.

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