

Republic of Nauru – 20th Parliament

Shipping Licences Bill 2012

SECOND READING SPEECH

Hon Riddell Akua MP

6 November 2012

Mr Speaker,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to the House today the Shipping Licences Bill 2012. This is a Bill for an Act that introduces a scheme for the licensing of operators of commercial cargo services to and from Nauru.

Services operated by the Republic and the transport of bulk phosphate are beyond the scope of the measure. The Bill also makes sure that local fishery operations are not subject to the requirements.

The purpose of requiring a licence is to ensure that the services are viable, reliable and flexible and that the fees and charges for cargo services are reasonable.

Measures such as those provided in this Bill have been considered and discussed over several years by Nauru and some of its small island state neighbours in the Central Pacific, with the aim of giving the small and isolated states more of a say in the level of cargo service they are provided with by shipping companies.

The passage of this Bill will enable Nauru to fulfil its commitments and obligations under the Agreement on Regional Cooperation in Matters Affecting International Commercial Shipping in the Central Pacific Region. Nauru signed this agreement in 2010, together with Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. The Agreement establishes the Central Pacific Shipping Commission, and requires all parties to cooperate on all shipping matters especially with respect to coordination of the granting of shipping licences to commercial carriers. The agreement recognises the interdependence of shipping services and the need for and benefit of cooperation in developing international commercial shipping in a safe, economical and orderly manner. Articles 4, 5 and 6 of the agreement deal with the grant, terms and conditions and cancellation of a shipping licence. Articles 19 and 20 deal with tariffs and schedules. The Bill deals with each of these matters.

There may be situations in which a consignment of cargo cannot be transported in a timely or economical way by a licensee. For this reason the Bill contemplates the issuing of a permit for a single consignment of cargo.

Cabinet must consent to the granting of each licence and to the issuing of each permit.

Mr Speaker, the explanatory memorandum describes in detail each provision of the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.