

REPUBLIC OF NAURU
OZONE LAYER PROTECTION BILL 2017
SECOND READING SPEECH

Hon. Baron Divavesi Waqa, MP

23 November 2017

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I have the pleasure of introducing to this House today a Bill for an Act to give effect to the Montreal Protocol on the control or use of substances that affect the ozone layer.

Mr Speaker, the stratospheric ozone layer is Earth's "sunscreen" – protecting living things from too much ultraviolet radiation. In an effort to decrease the quantity of substances in the atmosphere affecting the ozone layer, the international community negotiated and agreed to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer as adopted in Vienna on 22nd March 1985 as well as to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the ozone layer adopted in Montreal on 16th September 1987.

Mr Speaker, it is timely that this Bill is brought before the House particularly with the recent showcasing of our small Pacific islands at COP 23 in Bonn. The Republic is a party to both the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. The Republic is therefore obligated to comply with the international standards that phase out or control the consumption of certain ozone depleting substances for the sake of protecting the ozone layer.

The objectives of this Bill are to:

- prevent and minimise the release of ozone depleting substances into the environment;
- control and reduce the importation, exportation, use, sale and storage of ozone depleting substances;
- manage and control the phasing out of ozone depleting substances except for essential uses pursuant to the Republic's obligations under the Vienna

Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and

- fulfil the obligations of the Republic under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The Bill establishes a mechanism to monitor and control the importation, exportation, handling and licensing of handlers of ozone depleting substances. Ultimately this shows the world, that Nauru, a grain of sand in a vast ocean space, is committed to taking measures towards protecting the ozone layer.

The Bill is accompanied by an explanatory memorandum explaining the Bill in more detail.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.