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MEDIA RELEASE

CHANGES TO DIGITAL LICENSING LAWS

SUPPORTED BY CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

For immediate circulation

Yesterday, Rev Hon Fred Nile MLC contributed to the Second Reading debate concerning legislation that facilitates the use of digital drivers licenses. Below is an extract of Rev Nile's speech extracted from the Parliamentary *Hansard*.

ROAD TRANSPORT AMENDMENT (DIGITAL LICENSING) BILL 2020

Tuesday 13 October 2020

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (21:40:20): On behalf of the Christian Democratic Party, I am pleased to support the Road Transport Amendment (Digital Licensing) Bill 2020. The bill will give the digital driver licence the same legal status as the plastic licence card—which we are all aware of and which we all carry—so that customers can use the DDL whenever legislation requires that a driver licence is to be used. It will also allow New South Wales licensing authorities to share customer information only with a customer's consent. The digital driver licence has proved very popular, with over 1.7 million downloads. The digital driver licence has security benefits for licence holders, such as being protected by their personal identification number, fingerprints or facial recognition. It has security benefits for checkers, such as unique features that can make it easily verified and difficult to replace fraudulently. The bill will give the digital driver licence and plastic cards the same equal status as authority to drive.

The bill will allow the release of information in DRIVES for the purpose of verifying the digital driver licence. It will also allow licensing authorities to share customer information and photographs only with consent. It has been encouraging to see the number of community

organisations and businesses that have been enthusiastically supporting the legislation, including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and other organisations. On 3 July 2020 Service NSW began a pilot with five pharmacies, working with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. Feedback from pharmacists and customers has been very positive. The Department of Customer Service is working closely with other State and Territories to ensure readiness to accept the digital driver licence. Police forces in all States and Territories except the Northern Territory have confirmed that they will accept the New South Wales digital driver licence. That will give comfort to all the New South Wales residents who apply for a digital driver licence. I am pleased to support the bill.

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