

~~this report should give confidence to the families of the Burnett and Bundaberg region. It is a big pat on the back for our dedicated medical staff.~~

~~There are a number of things wrong with the Bundaberg Base Hospital, as I have just said, and it relates to underresourcing and underfunding. We have half the number of beds that we should have. We should have 160 hospital beds. The lack of funding and the underresourcing— not having enough resourced and equipped hospital beds—are causing extra pressure to be placed on our medical staff. That is what causes all the problems— this constant pressure of patients coming in and not having enough beds. This minister does not appear as though he would like to address those problems. Every time this is raised in this place he likes to shout people down and stop people from talking about it. I think he is being a little bit precious about it all.~~

~~We have to learn a lot of lessons. I note that the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009 talks about the registration of dentists. I take the short time left to me to note that we have a dental waiting list in Bundaberg— Burnett of seven plus years. This must be addressed.~~

~~**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member's time has expired.~~

~~**Mr Lucas:** That is the worst contribution of anyone I have heard.~~

~~**Mr Messenger:** Thank you, you round mound of socialist sound.~~

~~**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Burnett does not have the call.~~

~~**Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (12.57 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise to speak in this cognate debate on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009. It was very gratifying to hear some very worthwhile contributions in the House yesterday from the shadow minister and two medical practitioners, the member for Moggill and the member for Gaven. I always respect professional people, whoever they are and from whatever walk of life. I think it is important from time to time that we recognise the input from professional people in a field that they know something about, especially when that field is applicable to them. I thought that was some very good input from both of those members who are medical practitioners.~~

~~These are very important pieces of legislation. I want to touch firstly on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009. There are many aspects that confront the medical profession and the health department today, especially in relation to overseas trained doctors. Overseas trained doctors are an integral part of our medical services, not only here in Queensland but also in Australia. I know that there are many overseas trained doctors who work in my electorate. They do very valuable work and are highly regarded for the work they are doing in rural Queensland. I have to say that, on the whole, they are very well received and very well respected by the local communities, because we in Western Queensland know what it is like to not have a doctor.~~

~~We are also blessed in Western Queensland with that mantle of safety called the Royal Flying Doctor Service, something that is absolutely sacred to our part of the world and something that I think is sacred to Australia as a whole. It has provided medical services for many, many years to those people in isolated, remote areas who do not have access to a doctor on a daily basis. I applaud the Royal Flying Doctor Service for the work it does and the men and women in that service who over a long period of time have made a great contribution and a great personal contribution.~~

~~**Mr Lucas:** They got the extended contract, too.~~

~~**Mr JOHNSON:** Good. I take the interjection of the Deputy Premier in relation to the extended contract. They are regarded as a highly professional outfit. They are doing marvellous work and extensive work in relation to not only providing services but also recognising mental health.~~

~~Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Mr Johnson, adjourned.~~

022

BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, Building Act 1975, Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990, Land Title Act 1994, Mixed Use Development Act 1993, Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002, Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000, Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 for particular purposes. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Tabled paper: Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009.

Tabled paper: Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (2.31 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009 contains key components of the government's decisive strategy to help address climate change through improvements in the building sector, while keeping its election commitments. The built environment provides some of the most promising opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions of any sector. The government is acting decisively with its innovative and nation-leading sustainable housing policy.

This bill will amend the Building Act 1975 and the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 to implement the government's 'Ban the Banners' election policy, ensuring conditions that are placed on new development will not lock in bad practices like requiring dark coloured roofs. This will also help address climate change impacts from our considerable existing building stock by invalidating new covenants and provisions of body corporate by-laws and statements restricting owners from using sustainable features, such as photovoltaic cells or solar hot-water systems. The policy gives choice and freedom back to homeowners and builders so they can build as green as they want to. The policy will also help to reduce the cost of homes by allowing prospective homeowners to choose designs and features with a small environmental impact as well as a small impact on their pockets. Owners will be able to choose whether they want rendering, ensuites and double garages, and they will be able to choose the size of their home.

The bill will introduce a nation-leading sustainability declaration to help to raise awareness and drive housing markets to reflect the true value of sustainable housing features. The declaration is a simple mandatory form to be completed before a house, town house or unit is sold in Queensland, it will be user friendly and it can be completed by the homeowner or a delegate. Advertising such as web listings and especially created signage will need to reference where the sustainability declaration can be viewed. The declaration will also need to be made available during open-house inspections as well as within a reasonable time frame if a copy is requested by a person interested in purchasing the property.

Queensland will be the first state in Australia to implement a comprehensive sustainability declaration during the sale of homes. The declaration will be mandatory from 1 January 2010 and it will cover a range of sustainable features. The declaration must be completed after engaging an agent to sell the property, and the property is not allowed to be advertised for sale until it is completed. Prospective purchasers will also be able to get an indication of the ongoing water and electricity savings that could be achieved by certain features, including energy-efficient lighting and insulation. Just as many people look at fuel economy and ongoing running costs when buying a car, sustainability features should be an important consideration for prospective homeowners. The declaration will not complicate real estate sales as obligations will not be attached to or affect contracts of sale.

With intensifying urban development, it is vital we protect the health and amenity of residents. This bill supports the introduction of a new building code that will ensure that development near major transport routes is constructed in a manner that will achieve an adequate level of noise reduction for occupants.

Consultation in 2008 indicated strong support for a new process and code setting noise standards for buildings in transport corridors. This will provide certainty for developers and reduce delays and holding costs for developments. Mandatory requirements of this nature will be an Australian first. Local governments will also have the ability to designate transport noise corridors.

This bill will expand the role of building surveying technicians to allow them to work in the private sector, enhancing career opportunities for building industry professionals and assisting to address the looming shortage of building certifiers.

Using learning from the Binary Industries fire, the bill provides more clarity on the classification and use of buildings. For any changes of use within building classifications, where the change would trigger new building work, a new certificate of classification will be required. The bill ensures that, for any future changes of the building code classification rules, offences will only apply to acts that occur after the amendments have been made so building owners who complied with the rules in effect at the time will not be impacted.

Building certifiers will have to have regard for guidelines made under the Building Act. New transitional arrangements for changes to the building assessment provisions will allow certifiers to use earlier provisions where there has been substantial planning at the design stage. Alternative building solutions will be assessable rather than self-assessable to ensure the use of performance measures is

properly overseen by a certifier. The bill will cut red tape by allowing certifiers to send approval documents to the building owner or applicant once a copy of the approval documents has been sent to the local government with the lodgement fee.

This bill introduces compulsory acquisition powers for koala habitat outside the urban footprint in South-East Queensland. The introduction of specific acquisition powers for koala conservation will contribute to the government's koala crisis response strategy announced in December 2008.

The acquisition provisions proposed will be limited in their application to the local government areas where koala populations are known to be under the most threat in South-East Queensland. These provisions are to be exceptional circumstance provisions only and used once all other options have been exhausted, and there will be guidelines in place to confirm this approach.

Minor amendments to the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 will prevent cats and dogs under eight weeks of age from being microchipped, unless under advice from a veterinary surgeon.

The bill amends the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 to require that a decision notice issued by a building certifier must state the classification or proposed classification of a building. Important transition provisions are also contained within the bill, such as a reference to the Local Government Act 2009 in the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 may be taken to be a reference to the Local Government Act 1993 until the new Local Government Act 2009 commences. This bill also amends the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 to replace the Plumber and Drainers Board with the Plumbing Industry Council.

With this bill, the government is taking decisive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the building sector and to fulfil our election commitments. We are leading the nation with these innovative measures, the majority of which are the first of their kind in Australia. This legislation will make Queensland a better place to live while protecting our unique environment and way of life for generations to come. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Johnson, adjourned.

~~HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW BILL~~

~~Second Reading (Cognate Debate)~~

~~Resumed from p. 3043, on motion of Mr Lucas~~

~~That the bills be now read a second time.~~

023

~~Mr JOHNSON (Gregory LNP) (2:39 pm): As I was saying before the break in relation to the work that flying doctors do in rural and regional Queensland, another very important facet of the Flying Doctor Service is the faculty of mental health. That is an area of major concern to many people regardless of where they live in this state. A lot of people over recent years have been affected by mental health. It is an issue that needs to be well and truly canvassed and one that we need to recognise is out there all of the time.~~

~~In relation to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009, I want to talk about the issue of attracting overseas doctors. That is an area that gets a lot of scrutiny here in Queensland. There has been a lot of controversy about that over recent years. These doctors have to confront the Australian Medical Council, which is fair enough, to do an exam to be registered. They have to complete the first part before they apply for that registration. That has to be done in the overseas country which they come from. The most important thing is that none of these regulations are lifted, and I know they will not be. Doctors from the United Kingdom and New Zealand certainly get the first breaks when it comes to entering Australia or Queensland to work in Queensland Health operations or facilities. Once they pass the exam, they then apply for the second part to get a visa. This again is limited registration.~~

~~There is a clinical interview conducted by a panel. The panel will then do an evaluation of their skill set and knowledge and find them a position where their skill set is appropriate for them to go to. This is done by the Medical Board. I know there are many hurdles to go through, but it is very important that these hurdles are jumped in a proper manner so we are getting the proper professionals to work within our hospitals in Queensland or in private practice. The one complaint that I get from doctors is about red tape. I hope an evaluation can be done so that sometimes that can be expedited. It is important that we invite British trained doctors, doctors from reputable European countries whose training methods we respect, and New Zealand doctors, as I mentioned earlier, to work in Queensland.~~

~~I have had doctors say to me on numerous occasions, 'We really don't want to be taking doctors from Third World countries because they have needs in their own countries,' and that is a fair comment.~~