

~~communities. It would have been a magic dam. This is the dishonesty of the members opposite. They did the people over down south with the Wivenhoe Dam—Wolffdene Dam.~~

~~Opposition members interjected.~~

~~Mr ROBERTSON: It links to the Wivenhoe. You did the people over for the Wolffdene Dam. You did not mind doing that.~~

~~Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. I think the minister has been here long enough to know the ruling of the House about addressing his comments through the chair. Four times—~~

~~Honourable members interjected.~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order.~~

~~Mr SEENEY: By my count the minister has addressed members of the opposition in the first person four times.~~

~~Mr Lucas: And you called the Premier precious this morning!~~

~~Mr SEENEY: I am calling the minister incompetent at the moment; that's the difference. I think someone who sits on the front bench should have a bit more respect for the House.~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: Order! You are now debating the issue. The point of order is quite right. The minister will address his comments through the chair.~~

~~Mr ROBERTSON: I, too, would be embarrassed about the history of treatment of the people of Wolffdene by the National Party. I would not want to be associated with that either, member for Callide. No wonder you got up on that point of order.~~

~~Mr Hobbs: It is not right. You can't even tell the truth.~~

~~Mr ROBERTSON: That's not true, no. Caught you. Gotcha!~~

~~Mr Hobbs: You got nothing.~~

~~Mr Lucas interjected.~~

~~Mr Gibson interjected.~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Warrego and Deputy Premier. Member for Gympie. Member for Warrego, I ask you to withdraw from the House under standing order 253A for 10 minutes. I ask you to withdraw. The House will come to order. I do not want any further interjections from either side.~~

~~Whereupon the honourable member for Warrego withdrew from the chamber at 11.30 am.~~

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~~Bushfire Preparedness~~

~~Mrs PRATT: My question is to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability. Roughly 3,000 acres was destroyed in the Bunya Mountains by a fire lit by rangers who failed in their duty of care to contain the fire. Has this fire and its impact on neighbouring properties been investigated? Will compensation be forthcoming to property owners negatively impacted by the fire? As a new minister to this portfolio, will the minister undertake a review of fire reduction procedures used in national parks to correct failed practices?~~

~~Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for her question. The member made a statement about this last night in the House. I said to her that if she has any evidence of such a thing occurring or any advice that she wants to provide to me my door is always open.~~

~~We take our responsibility in regard to fire safety very seriously. As part of preparing for fire season this year we have undertaken hundreds of burns right across the state. We have committed more funds towards fire prevention than any other government in our history. As I said, this is something that I am more than willing to talk to the member about. Fire safety is paramount. As we continue to face the impacts of climate change in this state we will have to increase our fire prevention. That is why we are continuing to work very closely as an agency, along with Fire and Rescue and rural fire brigades, to make sure that we will do that. I will investigate any concerns that the honourable member has in regard to this fire. I ensure all members that we will continue to carry out the fire mitigation program that we have in place.~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time is over.~~

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability) (11.32 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, Fisheries Act 1994, Nature

Conservation Act 1992 and Sustainable Planning Act 2009 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: Environmental Protection and other Acts Amendment Bill 2009.

Tabled paper: Environmental Protection and other Acts Amendment Bill 2009, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability) (11.32 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill introduces amendments to support the Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy. An environmental offset is a positive action taken to compensate for unavoidable negative environmental impacts that might result from an activity or a development. An offset differs from mitigation by addressing any remaining impact after all attempts to first avoid and then reduce the impact have been exhausted. Environmental offsets have been used in Queensland for many years. They are a commonplace approach to providing flexibility for development projects that face challenges of meeting the community's environmental standards.

This bill will provide legal certainty for environmental offset conditions placed on development approvals or other approvals for activities which impact on environmental values. Conditions requiring an environmental offset can already be legally imposed under relevant legislation. However, by including express provisions about offsets, we are improving legal certainty and making the legislation more clear for state and local government decision makers, the development industry and the community.

This bill amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Fisheries Act 1994 to insert a conditioning power in each act for environmental offsets. This power will clarify the ability to use offsets as an enforceable condition on approvals. The bill also amends the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to ensure an efficient process for amending conservation plans under this act. Conservation plans will require amendment to insert a conditioning power for environmental offsets. The bill streamlines the process for making amendments to conservation plans.

This bill does not introduce an offsets regime. That is already provided by the Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy, which came into effect in 2008. This bill supports the legislative implementation of the policy. The policy sets out the principles and guidelines for applying and developing more detailed specific-issue offsets policies for important environmental values such as vegetation and fish habitat. The Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy was introduced to ensure that offsets are used consistently and transparently across the state, effectively as a last line of environmental protection response. Environmental offsets can potentially assist the Queensland government in meeting the Toward Q2 target of protecting 50 per cent more land for nature conservation and public recreation by 2020.

One of the ways an environmental offset requirement can be met by developers is by making a financial contribution to the Balance the Earth Trust, administered by Ecofund to provide funds to increase our national parks estate. This bill will ensure the requirement to make a financial contribution to the Balance the Earth Trust constitutes a legal requirement as a condition of an approval. This bill will strengthen the Queensland Government Environmental Offsets Policy and other specific-issue offsets policies by ensuring that enforceable offset conditions can be imposed on approvals. I commend this bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Elmes, adjourned.

~~BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Resumed from 29 October (see p. 3045), on motion of Mr Hinchliffe~~

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

~~**Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (11.37 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Building and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a bill to amend the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997, the Building Act 1975, the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mixed Use Development Act~~