

are many people in the Far North who are in the same situation, and the government and I are trying to do what we can to assist them.

I am supporting a group in Mossman Port Douglas called Pink in the Tropics, which is also known as the Douglas Breast Cancer Support Network. Pink in the Tropics is a breast cancer support group which, by sharing information, aims to help women feel less isolated during their breast cancer journey. Pink in the Tropics was formed by a group of women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer and who have undergone varying treatments. They exchange information and further their education on issues arising from breast cancer diagnosis.

The objects of the group are to inform, empower and support women during their breast cancer journey by providing information gained through their own breast cancer journey, appropriate pamphlets, booklets, publications and websites, or by referral to other appropriate agencies. They also empower women to have a voice in their own health care and to play an active role in improving breast cancer treatment, care and services. They are driven by women who have experienced breast cancer and who can offer support through their empathy to others on their breast cancer journey.

They are a group of ordinary women going about their lives who meet up occasionally to share knowledge. Their role is not to act in any way as professional counsellors. They simply chat over a cuppa on a variety of practical issues. Pink in the Tropics is lobbying the government to increase the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme's \$30 a night meals and accommodation subsidy. I am sponsoring a current e petition, and the ladies are working very hard to get signatures on the paper equivalent.

People in my electorate and in other rural and remote communities across Queensland regularly have to travel for specialised treatment, and they often find it very difficult financially on top of the understandable distress that they go through. It is a very personal matter for me, as my mother died from breast cancer, and she, too, had to travel to get treatment. She had to travel to Sydney to get radium treatment and support from her family there. Any increase in the subsidy would be a big help right across rural Queensland. Increasing the subsidy would be in line with other steps that the Bligh Labor government is taking to help patients who have to travel for treatment. This includes a recent increase in the kilometre rate of the PTSS from 10c per kilometre to 15c per kilometre. The government is also streamlining its processes for dealing with patient travel and accommodation under the PTSS scheme.

The government has also announced \$200,000 recently for seed funding to the Red Cross and the Cancer Council to begin planning for new accommodation for patients travelling to Cairns for treatment. More importantly, perhaps, the government is also upgrading the Cairns Base Hospital so that it will have a new oncology department which will reduce the need for many people in the region to travel to Cairns. But, of course, there will still be a need for some people like Sue, whom it will not help. Pink in the Tropics can be found at www.pinkinthetropics.org. It is a fantastic organisation, and I am very proud to lend it my support.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The time for matters of public importance has now expired.

ARCHITECTS AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology) (2.35 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Architects Act 2002 for particular purposes and to make consequential amendments to the Architects Regulation 2003 and the Cooperatives Regulation 1997. 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: Architects Amendment Bill.

Tabled paper: Architects Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology) (2.35 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Today I am pleased to introduce amendments to the Architects Act 2002. The Architects Act 2002 regulates the registration of architects and the practice of architecture in Queensland. Architects are

registered by the Board of Architects of Queensland in accordance with the act. Similar registration processes are used in other Australian states and territories.

One of the key initiatives of the bill is to introduce a simplified registration scheme using procedures approved by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia and adopted by architect registration boards in the Australian states and territories. Currently, the act provides for a regulation to prescribe qualifications and competencies in the practice of architecture and the assessment entities which would assess applicant architects against these qualifications and competencies. The assessment entities are also required to conduct competency assessments against continuing competency requirements. The board has experienced difficulty in translating the competency requirements approved by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia into the form of a regulation and has proposed that an alternative simplified scheme be introduced which adopts procedures approved by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia.

Under the proposed simplified registration scheme, the qualifications and competencies for registration of architects will no longer be prescribed by regulation. Instead, the act will provide that applicants for registration will need to satisfy two criteria. Firstly, applicants will need an academic qualification in architecture which is recognised by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia or a pass in the National Program of Assessment conducted by the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia. Secondly, applicants will require competencies in the practice of architecture based on a period of training followed by the successful completion of the Architects Accreditation Council of Australia Architectural Practice Examination or another examination arranged or approved by the Board of Architects of Queensland. Although not set out in the act, these requirements are already in use in Queensland and are used in all Australian states and territories. The Board of Architects of Queensland will continue to assess fitness to practise requirements, register architects and carry out disciplinary processes.

Currently, the Architects Act 2002 provides for the registration of practising architects only. The bill will amend the act to provide that a registered or formerly registered architect in Queensland or an equivalent jurisdiction in Australia may apply to the board to be registered as a non-practising architect. Non-practising architects will be registered if the board is satisfied either that they have retired from the practice of architecture or that they are not likely to practise as an architect within the next 12-month registration period. This new category of registration is similar to that adopted in New South Wales and Victoria.

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Debate, on motion of Mr Seeney, adjourned.

~~MINES AND ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade) (2.39 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Clean Energy Act 2008, Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Electricity Act 1994, Explosives Act 1999, Geothermal Exploration Act 2004, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982 and Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 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: Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade) (2.40 pm): I move—~~

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

~~The Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 seeks to amend various acts administered within the mines and energy portfolio to achieve three outcomes for Queensland: one, enhanced safety and health measures; two, streamlined and simplified government processes; and, three, improved credit support arrangements for electricity retailers and improved customer service obligations.~~

~~Enhancing safety and health measures~~