

~~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 Seenev, 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

Safety and health in the state's mining industry continues to be a key priority for this government. Since the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act came into force in March 2001, Queensland's large mines have been required to develop and maintain a fully documented safety and health management system. Small mines with 10 or fewer workers are exempt from this requirement. A 2006-07 Queensland Mines Inspectorate review into metalliferous mine and quarry fatalities over the previous 10 years found there was a decrease in the number of fatalities at large mines but an increase trend in fatalities in small mines. Fatalities at large mines dropped from 24 in the 1990s to eight in the 2001-09 period. At the same time, fatalities in small mines have increased from five to eight.

The amendments proposed will make it a requirement for small mines to develop a safety and health management system. To assist with this change, the Mines Inspectorate and the Institute of Quarrying Australia conducted 26 training seminars throughout the state on risk management and development of a safety and health management system. The small mines industry has responded positively and this amendment was also recommended by a coroner following an inquest into a fatality at a mine site. This bill also proposes amendments to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to enhance safety and health measures in the gas industry, particularly in relation to the certification of installations and appliances.

Streamlining and simplifying government processes

In December 2008 the Premier made a commitment to streamline administrative processes for state government approvals of new mines. The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation is working to improve the efficiency of the approval process for mining projects while ensuring strict environmental and land use approval processes are met. We are now introducing legislative amendments that will speed up mining lease approvals.

The proposed amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 will streamline the approvals process for mining lease applications where no objection has been lodged. The mining registrar must currently refer all applications for mining leases and all properly made objections to the Land Court for hearing. If no formal objection to an application has been lodged, the Land Court will generally dispense with a hearing. However, this process can take up to six weeks and there have been no reported instances where the Land Court has refused an application based on an assessment in chambers. The proposed amendments will remove the mandatory requirement for the Land Court to assess mining lease applications with no properly lodged objections. Instead, these applications will be assessed by the minister administering the Mineral Resources Act 1989, shortening the mining lease approval process by up to six weeks.

Other amendments that aim to streamline and simplify regulatory processes include amendments to reduce the regulatory burden on participating businesses in the Smart Energy Savings Program and simplify the approvals process for petroleum and gas pipelines that traverse both the mainland and Queensland's internal waters and ensure pipeline proponents only need to comply with the safety and health obligations under one act.

Improved credit support arrangements for electricity retailers and improved customer service obligations

Amendments proposed to the Electricity Act aim to ensure large market customers in rural and regional Queensland can secure access to electricity. The proposed amendments will require the retailer responsible for the premises to offer supply to these customers on fair and reasonable terms. This obligation will not increase the current community service obligation payments and is consistent with provisions for large market customers whose contracts expire without renewal.

Further amendments proposed to the Electricity Act will specify that an electricity retail authority holder must provide credit support required by an electricity distributor with whom the retailer has common customers. However, this will only apply if the credit support required by the distributor complies with credit support guidelines published by the Queensland Competition Authority. The proposed amendments will not preclude a retailer and distributor from agreeing to another form of credit support that does not comply with the guidelines.

Electricity distribution entities operate in a regulatory environment where they must provide access to their distribution networks to retail entities on behalf of customers. Given this obligation, it is generally accepted that distribution entities should be able to manage their risk of exposure to nonpayment for distribution services by a retail entity. The current process for the distribution entity to enforce its right to credit support is considered unwieldy and protracted. The dispute resolution process can take many months during which there is no means of limiting further increases to the distribution entity's credit risk exposure, as the retail entity is able to continue to sell electricity to existing and new customers.

The proposed amendments aim to enhance the regulatory framework relating to retailer credit support by requiring the Queensland Competition Authority, as an independent regulatory body, to prepare and publish credit support guidelines. The guidelines must meet the needs of distribution entities in terms of minimising credit risk, while also ensuring the required credit support arrangements

are fair and reasonable for retailers, so as to not create an unreasonable barrier to entry. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Seeney, adjourned.

~~CHILD CARE AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Hon. GJ WILSON (Ferny Grove ALP) (Minister for Education and Training) (2.46 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Care Act 2002 and the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 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: Child Care and Another Act Amendment Bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Child Care and Another Act Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Hon. GJ WILSON (Ferny Grove ALP) (Minister for Education and Training) (2.47 pm): I move~~

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

~~This bill has three objectives: to require licensees of child care services other than school age care services to keep compliance history logbooks; to implement a system for testing of persons in literacy, numeracy or science prior to registering them as teachers; and to recognise certain teaching experience for the purposes of teacher registration. The government is committed to openness and transparency and believes it is vital that parents have access to information about the quality of early childhood education and care, ECEC, services. That is why, on 7 October last year, this House passed amendments to the Child Care Act 2002 to enable the Department of Education and Training to publish information on its website about ECEC services that demonstrate serious and repeated noncompliance that is more than minor in nature. Those amendments commenced on 1 February this year.~~

~~The introduction of a requirement for licensees to keep logbooks about their compliance history will deliver on the next stage of this government's plan to increase the information available to parents about ECEC services in Queensland. Logbooks will be required to be kept by all licensees of licensed centre based child care services for example, long day care services and kindergartens. School age care services will not be required to keep a logbook; however, this will be explored in the coming months.~~

~~The amendments will also apply to licensed home based child care services that is, family day care services. Licensees will be required to enter information in their logbooks if the chief executive initiates a suspension, urgent suspension, amendment or urgent amendment of their licence. Licensees will also be required to include information about any compliance notices that are issued to them under section 142 of the Child Care Act 2002. Licensees will also be required to update the information in their logbooks to indicate when a suspension has been lifted or when the licensee has taken steps to rectify the contravention.~~

~~As I have said in the past, the majority of licensees of child care services provide quality care and comply with the legislation. However, parents have a right to know when services fall short of meeting their obligations under child care laws or expose children to serious risks to their safety or wellbeing. Any person, including parents and carers, will be entitled to inspect or obtain a copy of a licensee's logbook at any time. This will provide parents with more information about the quality of an ECEC service so that they are better informed when making decisions about a service that is providing, or will potentially provide, a service to their child.~~

~~At the request of the Premier, in 2009 Geoff Masters from the Australian Council for Educational Research conducted an independent review of literacy, numeracy and science in Queensland primary schools. The final review, *A shared challenge: improving literacy, numeracy and science learning in Queensland primary schools* known as the Masters review concluded that improved outcomes in literacy, numeracy and science are likely to be facilitated by a number of factors, including access to a well prepared teaching workforce.~~

~~The Masters review recommended that all aspiring primary teachers should be required to demonstrate, through test performances, that they meet threshold knowledge levels about the teaching of literacy, numeracy and science and sound content knowledge in these areas prior to registration as a~~