

~~of new SES units, requiring the chief executive of the DCS to consult with the relevant local government and other community representatives before establishing a unit.~~

~~Finally, the bill seeks to amend the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 to allow police officers to declare an emergency situation where a natural hazard, such as a landslide, occurs. This will allow the QPS to respond promptly to rapid-onset natural events, pending the declaration of a disaster situation under the Disaster Management Act 2003. This bill builds on the sound foundations that already exist in Queensland and seeks to enhance disaster management to help communities to better cope with the effects of disasters. I commend the Bill to the House.~~

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

CARERS (RECOGNITION) AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (12.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 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: Carers (Recognition) Amendment Bill.

Tabled paper: Carers (Recognition) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs) (12.50 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Bligh government has a strong record of supporting seniors and carers. On 24 May this year at community cabinet on the Gold Coast, the Premier launched Positively Ageless—Queensland Seniors Strategy 2010-20. This strategy introduces Grandparents Day to celebrate the contribution of grandparents and their important role in the community, and establishes a new grandparents information hotline, to be run by Lifeline, to improve information for grandparents about services and resources for grandparents.

The amendments proposed in the Carers (Recognition) Amendment Bill 2010 today would make Queensland the first state to legislatively recognise grandparents providing full-time care for their grandchildren. The government proposes amendments to the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 to extend the existing legislation to specifically recognise the interests of grandparents.

There are approximately 14,000 Australian families in which a grandparent or grandparents are the main carers for their grandchildren. These grandparents, many of whom have completed their child-rearing days with their own children, step up to meet their grandchildren's need for stability and continuity of care. Grandchildren may come to live with grandparents for a range of reasons.

The government's bill will:

- extend the definition of carers to recognise grandparents as full-time carers for their grandchildren where the child lives with the grandparent and the grandparent is the primary caregiver and decision maker for the child;
- extend the functions of the Carers Advisory Council, which already exists under provisions of the Queensland carers act, to include working to advance the interests of grandparents providing full-time care for their grandchildren;
- expand the membership of the Carers Advisory Council to include two positions for grandparent carers providing full-time care for their grandchildren or a representative body of grandparent carers;
- amend the existing Queensland Carers Charter—again established under the Queensland carers act—to include recognition of the invaluable role that grandparents providing full-time care for their grandchildren play in the lives of their grandchildren, and to include a further two new principles in the charter which would recognise grandparents providing full-time care for their grandchildren and assure them of access to information that supports them in their role.

The government's bill will also more closely align the Queensland carers act with the recently introduced Commonwealth Carer Recognition Bill in that it will require public authorities to apply the principles of the Queensland Carers Charter in their human resource policies.

We have long recognised the invaluable contribution of all carers who provide ongoing care and assistance to those in need. The Queensland carers act recognises the selfless support of unpaid carers who provide ongoing care to a person because of disability, frailty, chronic illness or pain in the Queensland Carers Charter. The act also establishes the Carers Advisory Council to advance the interests of carers.

Today, through these new amendments we will further strengthen the carers act. The proposed amendments will ensure that strong legislative recognition of grandparent carers is established in Queensland and that there is a practical application of their interests as part of government decision making. As well as the initiatives proposed for grandparents through our seniors strategy, the government's bill represents a tangible and clear legal framework through which to provide grandparent carers with the recognition they well deserve.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hobbs, adjourned.

~~MANUFACTURED HOMES (RESIDENTIAL PARKS) AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Hon. PJ LAWLOR (Southport ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading) (12.53 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003. 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: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Hon. PJ LAWLOR (Southport ALP) (Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading) (12.54 pm): I move—~~

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

~~I am pleased to introduce the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2010, which delivers on the government's commitment to a fair go for Queenslanders who live in manufactured homes.~~

~~Honourable members of this parliament have long recognised the need for strong laws to protect people who live in manufactured homes, many of whom are older members of our community and who need security and certainty when it comes to where they live. It has also been recognised that residential parks play an important role in addressing the housing and accommodation challenges facing our rapidly growing state.~~

~~The bill is an important milestone in striking the right balance between protecting manufactured home owners and encouraging the viability and growth of an innovative, vibrant residential parks industry. The Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act applies when a person owns their manufactured home but rents the site it is located on from a residential park owner.~~

~~A review has been undertaken to ensure that the act is meeting community expectations and that its provisions remain appropriate. The review benefited from an extensive public consultation process involving manufactured home owners, residential park owners, and community and industry representatives. There were also considerable representations made to me by my parliamentary colleagues on behalf of their constituents for which I thank them. I must say that I am grateful to the hundreds of Queenslanders who have shared their experiences and expertise during this consultation process.~~

~~This bill proposes important amendments to strengthen provisions of the act that protect the interests of manufactured home owners. Once positioned in a residential park, moving a manufactured home can be an expensive and difficult exercise. After having moved into a park, the opportunity for a homeowner to change providers and get a better deal for themselves is very limited. For this reason, the act needs to provide strong consumer protection. This emphasis will now be made clearer by changing the objects of the act to confirm that protecting the interests of manufactured home owners is its main purpose.~~

~~Amendments will also make things clearer for consumers contemplating entering a residential park. For instance, the bill includes amendments to improve the presentation and content of site agreements. This will be achieved through a requirement for site agreements to be clearly expressed in~~