

~~dust and the darkness they went about securing our future but in doing so they paid the ultimate price. The 19th day of September is the day in 1921 that 75 workers were killed by an explosion in the Mount Mulligan mine in Far North Queensland, leaving a small town shattered. That was a catastrophe of heart wrenching proportions—the third worst mining disaster in Australia's history.~~

~~This year, Miners Memorial Day was particularly meaningful to the mineworkers of Moura. The 20th day of September 2010 is the 35th anniversary of the Kianga No. 1 mine disaster, where 13 mineworkers died when an explosion occurred in the underground workings. AMWU Moura shop steward John Hempseed brought to the service the banner of those workers, commemorating the tragic history of mining in Moura.~~

~~The Queensland government has assured mineworkers and their families that their legacy will live on. Their passing will continue to bring about a greater level of diligence amongst our miners and improved safety measures within the industry. The Queensland government, along with our entire resources sector, is doing everything in its power to keep our miners safe.~~

~~Miners Memorial Day has the strong support of the mining industry, as well as the unions that represent mineworkers—the CFMEU, the AMWU, the ETU and the AWU. These unions have a proud history of championing safety for mineworkers and are continually lobbying state and federal governments for improvements in mine safety regulation and enforcement.~~

~~Together, government, industry, workers and their unions can limit the likelihood of the people of Blackwater and other mining communities ever having to experience this kind of agony again. This government has worked hard to protect mineworkers, with increased enforcement in the Mines Inspectorate and new safety regulations for workers in small mines, as well as protecting a mining specific safety regime with the harmonisation of national workplace health and safety laws.~~

~~I hope all members of this House can take a moment to remember the 1,450 workers who have perished at the coalface over the course of our state's 150 year history. The miners memorial service is now an annual event, to ensure that we never forget these 1,450 workers. Next year's memorial service will be held in Mount Isa, recognising the importance of metalliferous mining to our state's economy and history. This will give the people of Mount Isa the chance to participate in Miners Memorial Day, as the people of Blackwater and surrounding communities have had this year.~~

~~As well, a permanent miners memorial is to be constructed in Redbank by 2012, in the electorate of the member for Bundamba, a member who has been a long time advocate for mineworkers in Queensland and, I am sure, a proud host to this memorial.~~

~~019 Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.~~

POLICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

First Reading

Hon. NS ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (12.29 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, Police Service Administration Act 1990, Prostitution Act 1999 and Prostitution Regulation 2000 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: Police Legislation Amendment Bill.

Tabled paper: Police Legislation Amendment Bill, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. NS ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services) (12.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I introduce a bill into the House which amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990 and the Prostitution Act 1999 for a variety of purposes. On 15 June 2010, the Premier and I announced that police state-wide will be given the power to issue on-the-spot fines for public nuisance, public urination and associated offences. This followed a 12-month trial by the Queensland Police Service in 2009 of issuing infringement notices for public nuisance, public urination and associated offences in the Townsville and South Brisbane police districts. The trial was initiated by the Bligh government in direct response to recommendations contained in the Crime and

Misconduct Commission's report *Policing public order: a review of the public nuisance offence* which identified ticketing as a viable option for dealing with public nuisance behaviour.

Griffith University evaluated the 12-month trial and its report concluded that infringement notices are a cost-effective means of dealing with public nuisance offences. The report found that during the trial period 46 per cent of all persons ticketed had no previous criminal history—consistent with the CMC report findings that policing of public nuisance offending is primarily focused on managing 'party people' in response to public concerns. For this group of people, ticketing for public nuisance offending has the potential to prevent them from entering the criminal justice system.

The ability for police to issue infringement notices will be in addition to current actions available to police, including diversion, cautions, issue of move-on directions, issue of notices to appear, and arrest and charge. The issuing of infringement notices will reduce the necessity for offenders to be taken into police custody for relatively minor offences and enable police to spend less time on paperwork for public nuisance offenders and be available to perform operational duties.

In implementing state-wide public nuisance ticketing, the Queensland Police Service will maximise the use of alternatives to enforcement action, where appropriate, to ensure ticketing does not unreasonably impact on vulnerable social groups. This includes conducting ongoing evaluation through an operational performance review on public order offending 12 months after state-wide implementation.

The bill also amends the Police Service Administration Act 1999 to enable the electronic assessment of criminal history records for employment screening purposes. Currently, section 10.2A of the Police Service Administration Act authorises the Commissioner of Police to disclose criminal history records, with the consent of the person, to third parties for employment screening purposes via CrimTrac or another police service. The disclosure is subject to the non-disclosure provisions of other acts. Currently, the assessment of the suitability and vetting of criminal history records for disclosure, including the revival of spent convictions, is a manual process requiring the faxing or couriers of criminal history information to CrimTrac and other police services.

The bill enables the Queensland Police Service to use the full criminal history information of a person, which is currently electronically provided to CrimTrac under the National Police Reference System, to assess the suitability of records for release, including the revival of spent convictions for criminal history employment screening purposes under CrimTrac's National Police Checking Service Support System. However, these amendments do not extend the nature of the criminal history information which is subsequently released to third parties for employment screening purposes, which is limited to current adult convictions. Nor do the amendments change the requirement that the release of criminal history information to a third party can only be undertaken with the written consent of the person.

The bill amends the Prostitution Act 1999 to provide for the automatic suspension and cancellation of a licensee's licence or an approved manager's certificate on the nonpayment of annual fees. Brothel licences and approved manager's certificates are valid for a period of three years, with an annual licence fee and an annual licence return fee or an annual certificate fee and an annual return fee payable. Some licensees and approved managers were of the view that because they had a three-year licence or certificate they should not be required to pay annual fees.

This bill will allow for the automatic 28-day suspension of a licence or an approved manager's certificate on the nonpayment of the annual fees. The suspension may be lifted when the licensee or approved manager pays the fees during the suspension period or, in exceptional circumstances, a licensee or approved manager has entered into an outstanding fees payment plan with the Prostitution Licensing Authority. If the licensee or approved manager fails to pay the outstanding fees within the suspension period or in accordance with a payment plan their licence or certificate is cancelled.

The bill also amends the Prostitution Act to provide a clear framework for the Prostitution Licensing Authority to undertake disciplinary inquiries into a licensee or approved manager. Currently the Prostitution Act provides the Prostitution Licensing Authority with some disciplinary powers, but little direction in the way it can conduct a disciplinary inquiry and limited powers to require persons to answer questions or produce documents.

The amendments allow the Prostitution Licensing Authority to hold a disciplinary inquiry by way of a hearing or correspondence. If the licensee or approved manager fails to attend or fails to make a submission where the inquiry is conducted by correspondence, the Prostitution Licensing Authority will be empowered to continue with the disciplinary inquiry and make a determination about whether a ground for disciplinary action is established.

The Prostitution Licensing Authority will also have the power to compel attendance of witnesses and require a witness or the licensee or approved manager to answer questions, produce documents or give information. If they fail to comply, they commit an offence with a maximum penalty of 60 penalty units. No offence is committed where the answering of the question or production of the documents or information would self-incriminate.

Finally, the bill amends the Prostitution Act to provide for extended criminal history checking of persons appointed to, or seeking appointment as a member of, the Prostitution Licensing Authority or executive director or persons employed or seeking employment as a staff member of the Prostitution Licensing Authority. The extended probity checking is reflective of the integrity benchmarks required for such appointments or employment. Criminal history checks can only be undertaken with the consent of the applicant.

This legislation balances the rights of individuals and the rights of the community to a safe and fair society by enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Queensland Police Service and the Prostitution Licensing Authority. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Malone, adjourned.

~~DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Resumed from 2 September (see p. 3149), on motion of Mr Roberts~~

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

~~**Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba ALP) (12.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. These amendments clarify the objectives of the disaster management system, clarify the roles of state and local governments in relation to the State Emergency Service, reallocate roles and create new roles in disaster management groups, amend the processes and requirements for declaring a disaster situation, establish temporary disaster districts and create new roles of state disaster coordinator and state recovery coordinator.~~

~~In the electorate of Bundamba we have a strong and proud tradition of supporting our local ambulance service. Last Friday I had the pleasure of accompanying the Minister for Emergency Services, Neil Roberts, to the official opening of our brand new ambulance station in Springfield. Our Labor government expended \$2.4 million on building this brand new ambulance station in Springfield. It will provide a 24-hour service to the local community. It will accommodate four ambulance vehicles and 18 staff. Whilst it was \$2.4 million in terms of capital costs, I estimate the recurrent costs—that is, the salaries of our ambulance officers and other staff—to be around \$8 million a year.~~

~~Our new ambulance station is equipped with rest areas, training facilities and fantastic staff amenities. Our local ambulance men and women have world class facilities. I believe they are second to none not only in Australia but also in the world. Our new Springfield Ambulance Station will service Springfield, Springfield Lakes, Augustine Heights, Brookwater, Gailes, Redbank Plains and Bellbird Park.~~

~~The Redbank Local Ambulance Committee has been operating in our community for many decades. I have been on this committee for a number of years with people like Aaron Broad, who is the president; Steve Axe, the secretary; Graham Kaatz, the Treasurer; Colleen Kaatz; Clem Knight; and Teresa and Greg Broad. Our fantastic LAC has been devoted to assisting our Ambulance Service. We will be expanding the Redbank LAC to include our new Springfield station.~~

~~The latest purchase by the local ambulance committee has been recliner chairs for our ambulance officers, and a little while ago our local LAC bought a new TV for our ambulance officers. At this stage I would like to place on record my appreciation to RT Edwards and Sons, which is an Ipswich based electrical retailer, for providing this particular TV at cost price to the LAC.~~

~~The opening of our new ambulance station at Springfield completes the delivery of emergency services facilities in the eastern suburbs of Ipswich. A few years ago we opened the fire station at Camira. Earlier this year we opened the police station at Augustine Heights and last Friday we opened the ambulance station as well. The police station and ambulance station were both built ahead of time. I would like to place on record my appreciation to Peter Dennis and all of the ambulance officers who have played their part in the planning for the new station. I would also like to thank Jan, who is our new officer in charge at the Springfield Ambulance Station, and all of the team who will be working at the Springfield station for providing what I know to be a first class service to our local people.~~

~~I would like to inform our minister today that I am very closely connected to everybody in our community. Last night when I returned home from parliament at my front door was a lady called Rosa, who actually lives at Springfield Lakes. Rosa came to my home last night to tell me that last Thursday night she called out the ambulance officers at Springfield because she had severe pains in her chest. They arrived three minutes later and she was very pleased that they attended to her. Her treating doctor, Matilda, was also very impressed with the fast service provided, as was her family. When MPs know that something is working very well in their community and people come to our homes to say thank you so much for providing this service, we know that we have been very good in delivering this service to our local area and we also know that our ambos are top class.~~