

~~members will join me in offering our thoughts and best wishes to Bruce and Denise Morcombe. I have seen press releases from the member for Glass House with respect to that this week. They continue to show strength in relentless pursuit of what happened to Daniel in the face of tremendous adversity and the media circus surrounding the situation.~~

~~I am pleased to see that there is at least recognition of Labor's weak sentencing record. The introduction of this bill is an attempt to create a quick headline. A sustained policy approach to appropriate sentencing is what will slowly eradicate the community's general distrust in some of the current sentences that are being handed down by our courts. The community wants real action from a justice system that recognises the impact of a crime on the victims and their families. These laws will not ensure that serious sex offenders are locked up for substantial periods of time, but they are at least a step in the right direction.~~

~~As I noted earlier, a bill like this was introduced some time in 2004 by the then shadow Attorney General, the member for Caloundra. I look forward to later in the day when I can go through some of the contributions made by members opposite to the bill introduced at that time. Then it will give the Attorney General certainly an opportunity to let us know what has changed substantially in that short time.~~

~~**Mr Springborg:** Not very much in government. It just gets more and more embarrassed.~~

~~**Mr BLEIJIE:** Exactly. I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The government is being pushed into this through embarrassment. I want to thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the shadow Attorney General, for his tireless commitment and leadership when it comes to these issues.~~

~~Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm~~

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

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QUEENSLAND INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION POLICY BILL

First Reading

Hon. AP FRASER (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the development and implementation of a local industry participation policy for the state, and to require reporting to parliament on the policy's implementation and government agencies', and GOCs', compliance with it. 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: Queensland Industry Participation Policy Bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Industry Participation Policy Bill, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. AP FRASER (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Economic Development) (2.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Queensland government committed in its response to the parliamentary Economic Development Committee report *Inquiry into identifying world's best practice by governments to effectively stimulate employment opportunities in Queensland* to review the local industry policy with a view to increasing its transparency and accountability to drive better outcomes for Queensland business. The bill I move today is the response to this commitment to review the local industry policy.

Feedback from stakeholders about the policy was clear. The objectives of the policy—to ensure local Queensland business and workers have access to government procurement—were strongly supported. This is not surprising. Since the introduction of the local industry policy, the state's manufacturers have won 3,145 contestable contracts totalling some \$4.928 billion, with \$1.402 billion going to regional Queensland companies. These outcomes since the policy's introduction are impressive, but the time has come for government to formalise the policy into legislation.

The Queensland Industry Participation Policy Bill 2010 provides a legislative basis for the Queensland government to maximise the benefits for our local economy and community from state government funded procurement. This is about local industry getting a fair go for local jobs. In recognition of the economic and social benefits that flow from local participation, the bill seeks to ensure that the principles of local supplier involvement in Queensland government funded procurement are put

into practice by governments of this state into the future. Codifying the objectives of the local industry policy has also provided the opportunity for the inclusion of further transparency and accountability with the reporting of local industry policy outcomes.

The bill provides that the responsible minister must have an industry participation policy, to be known as the local industry policy. It requires that the minister report annually to the parliament on the policy's performance and outcomes. It codifies an increased level of accessibility for all stakeholders about how the local industry policy is applied. Local industry participation not only helps create and maintain jobs; it supports regional economic activity and development and drives technology diffusion and innovation through our own supply chains. It focuses Queensland industry on providing highly competitive goods and services whilst ensuring that the Queensland taxpayer receives value for money. Alongside value for money, the principles of ensuring probity and accountability in procurement are central tenets in government expenditure, and the bill provides that local industry policy must be consistent with them.

The bill requires consultation in future alterations to the local industry policy with the government agencies and government owned corporations that are implementing the policy but more importantly with stakeholders like employer and employee representatives such as unions. It ensures that future changes to the policy are collaborative and increase the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the policy, because, ultimately, this policy is about Queensland business and Queensland jobs. It is a policy about providing benefits for Queensland communities. The bill recognises that we live in a global economy and that developing the local industry's long-term international competitiveness is vital in responding to changing global markets. The bill requires that this specific objective be considered by the relevant minister in developing a local industry policy.

The bill recognises that the state and Commonwealth governments have international obligations in relation to government procurement that also need to be taken into account by the minister. Local industry policy, as provided for in the bill, will apply to all government agencies, including those special-purpose companies established to deliver some of our larger or unique infrastructure projects. It will also apply to GOCs and their subsidiaries while recognising their special circumstances and the role shareholding ministers have as the intermediaries between the state government and GOCs on policy matters.

The proposed legislation will not affect the principles or substance of the Queensland government's current local industry policy. It codifies the requirements of maintaining the policy and increases the transparency of application within government. The bill will improve the ability of all stakeholders to monitor the operation of the policy, confirm that it is being applied appropriately and that its operation is effective and efficient. We expect compliance and public reporting by government on this policy to provide more opportunities for local companies to access state government funded procurement projects. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bleijie, adjourned.

~~PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (SENTENCING ADVISORY COUNCIL) AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Resumed from p. 3907, on motion of Mr Dick~~

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

~~Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana LNP) (2.35 pm), continuing: Before the lunch interval I was referring to comments made by those members opposite who rejected the opposition's bill in 2005 which sought the establishment of a sentencing advisory council but who now in 2010 have seen the light and are happy to support government legislation on the same topic. It is important to recognise the Labor government's hypocrisy on this matter, and there is no better way to illustrate that than to take a look back in the history books of 2005 to see what was stated at the time, and I remind the House that these comments were made in the same context as this debate today. For instance, members opposite would be interested to hear what the member for Toowoomba North had to say at the time. The member for Toowoomba North had some interesting comments on the bill moved by the opposition and the then shadow Attorney, the member for Caloundra. In 2005 the member for Toowoomba North said, and I quote from Hansard~~

~~It is a concern to hear the Liberal Party putting up this bill tonight. It is, in all respects, trying to out National the National Party in terms of this type of proposed legislation.~~

~~He goes on to say~~

~~I see great worries in the trend that the Liberal Party is adopting here. One would expect it from the National Party, but one would expect something better from the Liberal Party, particularly from the shadow Attorney General, who is a member of the legal profession.~~