

~~ride it out. No doubt, the opposition leader is also developing an emergency response to the political storm. He wants to save his leadership. I want to remind members and the community about the need, when you are giving pets as presents for Christmas, to think about the consequences.~~

~~(Time expired)~~

Homelessness

~~**Mr McLINDON:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women. How many extra Queenslanders will be homeless this Christmas compared to Christmas time last year?~~

~~**Ms STRUTHERS:** I thank the member for the question. It is Labor governments that have put housing and homelessness at the top of the agenda. It is this government, the Bligh government, and previous Labor governments in Queensland that have given consideration to those who are less fortunate, to those who have trouble meeting their housing costs, to those who are sleeping rough.~~

~~When I look back on this year, one of the highlights for me is my attendance at the Magic Moonlight Ball at the convention centre. Who was at the Magic Moonlight Ball at the convention centre? Who were dressed up in their suits? Who had their glamorous outfits on? It was homeless people—700 or so homeless people and their support workers. How did that Magic Moonlight Ball come about? Because of a service funded by this government and funded by previous Labor governments. Micah services has had the decency, the compassion and the humanity to host this event year in, year out for the past 10 years. It is this government that has given the most support to homeless people of any other government in this state.~~

~~If that crowd opposite us got into government, what would they do for homeless people? They want these people out of sight. That has been their practice in the past. They have scanned the state and they have looked around. When we have had tory governments in this state, what have they done? They have moved people on. Where have they moved them on to? Have they moved them on to a home? Have they given them shelter? What have they done? They have usually brought in the police and they have usually brought in the sniffer dogs. That is what they do to people who are sleeping rough in this state.~~

~~Let us go back to the Magic Moonlight Ball that I attended a couple of months ago with 700 homeless people and their support workers. What did one of those fellows in his shiny suit tell me? I had a bit of a dance with him and he was having a chat to me. What did he say to me? He said to me, 'Minister, you know what? This government actually cares about us. This government cares. I have been sleeping around the Riverside Centre for years and if it was not for Micah services and the support you give to Micah services, I would probably not be alive.' All the time we were dancing away, having a little bit of a jive while we were talking. And guess what he said? He said that he now has a unit in Bardon. Isn't that great news? I look back on this year and see that one of the great achievements of the Bligh government is our support for homeless people—our support for people in housing stress.~~

~~**Opposition members** interjected.~~

~~**Ms STRUTHERS:** We want a fair Queensland. We want a fair deal for homeless people. You people would round them up and put them in jail.~~

~~**Honourable members** interjected.~~

~~**Mr SPEAKER:** I will wait for the House to come to order. The time for question time has ended.~~

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MINES AND ENERGY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

First Reading

Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade) (11.30 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Clean Energy Act 2008, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Explosives Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Gladstone Power Station Agreement Act 1993, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 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 (No. 2).

Tabled paper: Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2), explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade) (11.30 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2010 seeks to amend various acts administered within the Mines and Energy portfolio to achieve three outcomes for Queensland: improved energy efficiency for gas appliances, enhanced safety and health measures for Queensland's resource industry, and to provide a statutory authority for the collection of key royalty revenue estimates information.

In 2004 the Ministerial Council on Energy released the 'Switch on Gas' strategy, detailing a 10-year pathway to improve the energy performance of gas appliances and equipment. Gas water heaters and space heaters were identified as products for which energy efficiency regulation was planned to occur during 2008 to 2011. Through the successful National Framework for Energy Efficiency, governments have been working with the gas industry to revise energy labelling and introduce mandatory minimum energy performance standards for gas appliances.

From commencement, anticipated to be early next year, all domestic gas water heaters manufactured in or imported into Australia will be required to operate within a maximum gas consumption of 22,831 megajoules per year, when tested to Australian Standard 4552. This is equivalent to four stars on the current Australian Gas Association star rating scheme.

On 1 January 2010 a ban was introduced in Queensland prohibiting the installation of electric storage hot-water systems as replacements in those areas where residents have access to reticulated gas supply. It is anticipated that this ban will lead to increased use of gas water heaters in Queensland, with approximately 430,000 gas water heater installations estimated by 2020.

The introduction of energy performance standards for domestic gas water heaters is projected to decrease Queensland's associated gas consumption by 1.01 petajoules and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 67 kilotonnes over the next 10 years. This initiative is the first of its kind for gas appliances and equipment in Australia and is expected to be followed with a regulatory proposal for minimum energy performance standards for other gas appliances, such as space heaters.

On the day that we mourn the loss of those 29 miners at the Pike River mine in New Zealand it is important that we restate that safety and health in the state's mining industry is a key priority for this government. Currently, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 place obligations on designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers of plant equipment used at mine sites. These obligations ensure that the plant is designed, constructed, tested and examined to ensure that, if used properly, the safety risk is minimised for anyone using the machinery. Amendments in the bill seek to improve safety in the mining industry by extending these same obligations to the designers and constructors of earthworks such as tailings dams and berms. Under both of these mining safety and health acts, all mine operators are required to have a safety and health management system. The system includes systematic procedures, practices and policies to ensure the safety and health of persons who may be affected by the mining operations.

Instances have arisen where contractors working on mine sites have used their own safety and health management system, either on its own or in conjunction with the mine's safety and health management system. This can cause confusion and uncertainty for workers by creating inconsistent safety procedures. Industry stakeholders have suggested, and a coroner has recommended, that amendments be made to the mining safety and health acts to make it clear that only one safety and health management system is to apply at each mine site. Consultation with industry stakeholders has demonstrated strong support for the amendments.

Amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 included in the bill seek to formalise a previous long-standing practice of collecting future royalty revenue estimates from major producers. Historically this information was provided by producers voluntarily. Establishing a legislative requirement for holders of mining and petroleum production tenures to provide the government with future royalty revenue estimates will provide industry the assurance that data supplied will be protected by confidentially provisions of those acts.

A large number of minor amendments are also proposed to the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Gladstone Power Station Act 1993, the Clean Energy Act 2008, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Explosives Act 1999 and the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 1999 for particular purposes. The bill delivers many positive benefits for the people of Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Seeney, adjourned.