

~~course and license RTOs to deliver the course. The delivery of the course will be regulated by ASQA according to the usual standards that apply to VET courses and RTOs.~~


~~The bill inserts a displacement provision into part 5A of the Liquor Act 1992 and part 10A of the Gaming Machine Act 1991. Section 11 of the NVR Act provides for referring jurisdictions to declare that a particular state law will apply to RTOs notwithstanding that it relates to a referred VET matter. By inserting a displacement provision the bill will ensure that the current regulation of RTOs in relation to responsible service of alcohol, responsible management of licensed venue and responsible service of gambling can continue. The displacement provisions will expire two years after they commence. A new regulatory scheme for these forms of training will be developed and implemented prior to the expiry of the provisions.~~

~~This is an important reform which will improve the quality of vocational education and training and increase public confidence in the sector. The Commonwealth minister made a determination under section 7 of the Commonwealth National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011, which gives Queensland until 30 June 2012 to refer power before it is deemed a non-referring jurisdiction. The Bligh government has strongly supported the establishment of a national regulator and the referral of power necessary to achieve this. Queensland is currently working closely with the Commonwealth government to ensure that, subject to passage of this bill, ASQA is able to assume responsibility for Queensland RTOs by mid 2012.~~

~~In good news for Queensland, our state will have the equal largest regional office for ASQA and will also be responsible for a number of important national functions. To this end the Department of Education and Training is working closely with ASQA to arrange for the transfer of skilled staff so that ASQA is able to effectively perform its role as regulator in Queensland. I would like to assure this House that Queensland government employees who transfer to ASQA will not be disadvantaged and will have their entitlements preserved under the terms of a bilateral agreement between the Queensland government and ASQA.~~

~~Referring power to the Commonwealth to regulate Queensland RTOs by 30 June 2012 will deliver on our COAG commitment and put Queensland RTOs in the best position to transition under the new national arrangements.~~

First Reading

 ~~Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (12.45 pm): 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.~~

~~Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms van Litsenburg): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Industry, Education Training and Industrial Relations Committee.~~

MULTICULTURAL RECOGNITION BILL

Introduction and Referral to the Community Affairs Committee

 ~~Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (12.45 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for a Multicultural Queensland Charter, a Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council and a multicultural action plan and for related purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Community Affairs Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Multicultural Recognition Bill 2011.~~

~~Tabled paper: Multicultural Recognition Bill 2011, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce a bill for an act that strengthens and supports the implementation of Queensland's multicultural policy—'A multicultural future for all of us'. The Multicultural Recognition Bill 2011 is a further demonstration of this government's commitment to, and support for, a multicultural Queensland.~~

~~Queensland is a multicultural success story—home to more than 200 cultures, 220 languages and 100 religious beliefs. People from all walks of life and all parts of the globe have all contributed towards our great state. Queensland migrants enrich our cultural life and help to power our economy. Approximately 18 per cent of Queenslanders are born overseas and 7.8 per cent of us speak a language other than English at home. The bill cements Queensland's position as a welcoming and inclusive place for people of all cultural and linguistic backgrounds and religious beliefs. Legislation will strengthen and support the implementation of the policy—'A multicultural future for all of us'. Legislation~~

will encourage improved service delivery from government agencies to Queenslanders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

On 19 July this year, the Premier and I launched the new Queensland multicultural policy. This policy builds on our past achievements to improve access to services and achieve more positive outcomes across employment, education and health for people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and to support positive community relations and promote our multicultural heritage. Further, a key initiative of the policy is the introduction of multicultural recognition legislation in 2011. The tabling of this bill today marks the achievement of this important milestone.

The consultation for the review of the previous multicultural policy indicated significant community support for legislation to demonstrate Queensland's commitment to multiculturalism. Over 1,300 participants, from Cairns to the Gold Coast and from Mount Isa to Gladstone, attended 31 community forums held around the state about the multicultural policy. Specific representations in favour of multicultural legislation were made by key stakeholders such as the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, the Queensland Council of Social Services and the Multicultural Development Association—just to name a few. The multicultural sector also indicated their support for multicultural legislation following the launch of the policy, and the government has listened to their views.

There is current precedent for principles based legislation. For example, the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 was introduced to recognise the importance of the contribution of carers and establish a Carers Advisory Council. The bill also has similar elements to the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008. The bill will recognise the diversity of the people of Queensland and the valuable contribution of diverse groups to the Queensland community; promote Queensland as a united, harmonious and inclusive community by establishing the Multicultural Queensland Charter; and ensure government services are responsive to the diversity of the people of Queensland by providing for the multicultural action plan, establishing reporting arrangements for departments and establishing the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.

It is important to note that governance and reporting arrangements are key features of the bill. Queensland has a proud record of welcoming people from diverse cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds. Queensland and Australia's success as an increasingly culturally diverse society rests on our strong approach to multiculturalism—one that emphasises the value of citizenship, diversity, harmony and a 'fair go'.

021 Queensland continues to experience significant population growth, including through overseas migration. There are also evolving challenges amongst some Queenslanders from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, especially from the more recent arrivals from areas such as Africa, Afghanistan, Burma and the Pacific Islands.

The bill also introduces a Multicultural Queensland Charter. This charter outlines principles enshrined in the Bligh government's multicultural policy and recognises the valuable contribution of diverse groups of people to the Queensland community. This charter provides a clear vision for a Queensland that respects and values all community members. The bill does not create rights or impose legally enforceable obligations; rather it is about recognising that diversity is an integral part of Queensland's identity and an invaluable asset for our future.

The bill also establishes the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council which will consist of eleven members. The council will replace the Multicultural Community Ministerial Advisory Committee in advising government on how to develop and deliver policy, services and programs that meet the needs of people from culturally, religiously and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The bill provides for three-yearly multicultural action plans. The Premier and I launched the new Multicultural Queensland Policy with a three-year multicultural action plan in July this year. The first plan under the act will be required to be tabled by 2014.

To provide the level of accountability that the Bligh government demands, the bill requires reporting on the progress achieved in implementing the multicultural action plan. Under the bill, information regarding implementation must be included in departments' annual reports. The community will know exactly how the government is progressing on multicultural issues.

Potential impacts on other Queensland legislation, such as the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, have been considered and the bill has been drafted to ensure that there is no conflict with any other acts. The introduction of this bill is the government's firm commitment to multiculturalism. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs) (12.51 pm):
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.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms van Litsenburg): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Community Affairs Committee.

~~WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BILL~~

~~Second Reading~~



~~**Hon. VE DARLING** (Sandgate ALP) (Minister for Environment) (12.52 pm): I move~~

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

~~**Mr POWELL** (Glass House LNP) (12.52 pm): Here we are again—different day, same story, debating another broken Labor election promise. As if the asset sales were not enough, or the fuel tax, or at the federal level the carbon tax, today we debate a waste tax—a business-destroying, anti-waste reduction, anti-recycling, bureaucratic nightmare of a waste tax. It is another cost-of-living increase for each and every Queensland and Queensland business.~~

~~Labor is on the record as saying that it had no intention of introducing a waste levy in this term of government—the same as the LNP. When questioned by the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors in the lead up to the last election, the answer was a clear no. I do not know why I am surprised that Labor has reneged on yet another election promise. What did the Treasurer say about asset sales in the lead up to the March 2009 election? 'No, we have no plan to sell off assets.' What did the Treasurer say about introducing a fuel tax? 'Make no mistake about it. We'll be delivering a fuel subsidy scheme. It will stay in place.' What did Prime Minister Julia Gillard announce regarding a carbon tax in the lead up to the 2010 federal election? 'There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead.' I love that line!~~

~~So it is not surprising that this tired, 20-year-old Labor government has reneged on yet another election promise. It is just in its DNA. What about the Queensland Greens? What did they say when asked about a waste tax in 2009? The Queensland Greens did not answer that question. I would say that they were hedging their bets, not wanting Queenslanders to see that they are more than an environmental party. But the cat is out of the bag at a federal level now. We all now know that the Greens are really about economic destruction through increased taxation and social destruction through re-engineering.~~

~~Labor are masters at breaking their promises to the very Queenslanders who elected them—whether it is Julia Gillard to win over her partner in crime, Bob Brown, or Premier Bligh and environment minister Darling in a desperate attempt to shore up Green preferences in a last-ditch attempt to hold on to the seats like Mount Coot-tha, Brisbane Central, Barron River, Chatsworth, Ferny Grove, Townsville, Everton, Ashgrove and Greenslopes. Labor will do and say anything to hang on to power.~~

~~So how do you sell a waste tax that you vowed you would not implement? For starters, you slam and insult the same people you have been consulting with, the same people—the industry—you will rely on to implement your business-destroying tax. The minister in her speech said that this legislation will drag Queensland's waste sector out of the Dark Ages. What an insult! The waste industry has been calling for—pleading for—strengthened and enforced state government interest in waste avoidance, reduction and recycling.~~

~~The industry has been concerned that rogue illegal operators were ruining Queensland's reputation, and that reputation was hard earned. Without state government interest, the industry, local government and Queenslanders as a whole were achieving a 43 per cent recycling rate. Industry leaders were winning awards in this state, in this nation and internationally, and I will name just a few. In September this year WCRAQ, incorporating 85-plus companies state-wide, won the Queensland Supply Chain and Logistics Award for Environmental Excellence in recognition of its contribution to sustainability. JJ Richards and Sons, as an industry partner in the Women Take the Wheel program, won the 2011 Australian Trucking Industry Award for Excellence in Training. Alex Fraser Queensland, a Queensland recycler, won the Premier's ClimateSmart Sustainability Award in 2011 and the Minister's Award for ClimateSmart Leadership. Thiess Services waste management won this year's Waste Management Association of Australia 2011 National Landfill Excellence Award. They also won this year's United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Award for Environmental Best Practice. Kennedy's Timbers was the 2010 winner of the Energex Innovation in Sustainability Award.~~

~~As I said, the industry was looking for state government partnership to go to the next step through tighter regulation and enforcement of that regulation to ensure that illegal operators could not thrive. If there was a part of the waste sector in the Dark Ages, it was this tired 20-year-old Labor government. I bet the minister is regretting ever enunciating these words. I am willing to acknowledge that the speech was probably not even written for her. It sounds more like something the member for Ashgrove would say.~~