

~~Question put That the bill be now read a first time.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~Bill read a first time.~~

~~Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order~~



~~Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (3.42 pm), by leave, without notice: I move~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Parliament of Queensland and Other Acts Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill to enable the bill to be passed through its remaining stages at this day's sitting.~~

~~Division: Question put That the motion be agreed to.~~

~~**AYES, 77**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Judge, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbrook, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Johnson, Menkens, Sorensen~~

~~**NOES, 9**—Byrne, Katter, Knuth, Mulherin, Palaszcuk, Pitt, Trad. Tellers: Miller, Scott~~

~~Resolved in the affirmative.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Ms Palaszcuk, adjourned.~~

033

TREASURY (COST OF LIVING) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (3.51 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, can I congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees. I present a bill for an act to amend the Building Act 1975, the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008, the Duties Act 2001, the Electricity Act 1994, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000, the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 and for other purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Treasury (Cost of Living) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

Tabled paper: Treasury (Cost of Living) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

The Treasury (Cost of Living) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 amends legislation to give effect to a number of the government's election commitments, as we have spoken about earlier today. Specifically, it reinstates the transfer duty home concession; it increases the payroll tax exemption threshold; it freezes the Tariff 11 electricity tariff prices for one year; it also facilitates the establishment of the Office of Best Practice Regulation; and it removes the requirement for sustainability declarations, as just mentioned by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

The bill also includes an amendment to the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 to streamline the information included in agency annual reports, with the aim of producing further agency savings. The Bill amends the Duties Act 2001 and the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to give effect to the election commitments to lower the cost of living for Queenslanders and reduce the payroll tax on small and medium sized businesses.

The government is determined to implement its election commitments—unlike those opposite who, when they campaign, promise one thing and then in government do and say the opposite. Members will remember the election in which Labor campaigned on asset sales, the removal of the fuel subsidy and the introduction of a waste tax. They will not remember it, because it never happened. We will deliver what we promised and this legislation is the start.

This bill delivers on our promises to lower the cost of living for families by reinstating the principal place of residence concessional rate of transfer duty for the purchase of a person's home. The concession provides a one per cent rate of transfer duty to the first \$350,000 of the consideration or value of the home, with duty at the general rates applying to any remaining part of the value of the home. The previous home concession was removed on 1 August 2011 by the Labor Party and the general transfer duty rates and the phasing-out point for the first home concession were amended at the same time. To fully reinstate the previous position, the Duties Act 2001 amendments also reinstate the transfer duty rate structure and the first home concession as it existed before 1 August 2011.

The former government's Building Boost strategy was a complete and utter failure. It placed a tax on the family home and did not increase the number of new dwellings being built in Queensland. In fact, the then government spent hundreds of thousands of dollars writing to residents in New South Wales and Victoria and over \$1.4 million in advertising a program that so far has failed to meet a 50 per cent take-up rate.

Home buyers will therefore once again benefit from lower transfer duty on acquiring their family home, second or subsequent home, and saving around \$7,000. The changes will commence on 1 July 2012, as promised, and apply to contracts entered into, on or after that date.

The bill provides payroll tax relief for small and medium sized business by amending the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to increase the payroll tax exemption threshold from \$1 million to \$1.1 million so that employers with payrolls up to \$1.1 million will be effectively exempt from payroll tax. Increasing the deduction to \$1.1 million will also benefit employers with payrolls between \$1.1 million and \$5.5 million who will be entitled to a deduction or an increase in their existing deduction. The maximum deduction will be \$1.1 million, which phases out at the rate of \$1 for every \$4 of taxable wages above the \$1.1 million threshold. Again, these changes will apply, as promised, from 1 July 2012.

These payroll tax changes go to the heart of our belief that small business is the lifeblood of the Queensland economy and, unlike those opposite, we value the role small business plays within the Queensland economy. The new payroll tax exemption threshold will mean that approximately 1,200 employers, who would otherwise be paying payroll tax in 2012-13, will not be liable. As a result, approximately 90 per cent of Queensland employers will not be liable for payroll tax. The change will save taxpayers \$40 million in 2012-13 and will reinforce the competitiveness of Queensland's payroll tax regime compared to other states.

The bill will amend the Electricity Act 1994 to implement the government's decision to freeze the current standard residential electricity tariff, Tariff 11, excluding the impact of the Commonwealth government's carbon tax, and that will apply for one year from 1 July 2012. To facilitate this, in accordance with the current legislation, it will be necessary for the Minister for Energy and Water Supply, rather than the Queensland Competition Authority, to set the Tariff 11 price for 2012-13. To ensure the minister has sufficient flexibility to do this, a one-year transitional provision is proposed to be inserted into the Electricity Act.

In addition, to compensate retailers for the price freeze on Tariff 11, the government intends to direct Energex, the distributor, to reduce its network charges for 2012-13. To facilitate this, it is proposed to insert a one-year transitional provision into the Electricity Act to give the Minister for Energy and Water Supply the power to make a regulation in relation to Energex's network charges for 2012-13. Freezing Tariff 11 for one year will deliver on a key aspect of the government's commitment to address the rising cost of living for Queenslanders and help ease the increasing pressure on household budgets.

The bill will also amend the Electricity Act to implement the government's commitments to require retailers to display the cost of the carbon price and green energy schemes on household electricity bills from 1 July 2012. Under the amendments, retailers will be required to include a statement prescribed in regulation on residential bills for electricity, based on an estimate determined by the Queensland Competition Authority.

034 Given the government's decision to freeze the standard residential tariff for 2012-13, the first statement will only include information on the impact of the Commonwealth government's carbon tax. However, in later years the cost of the renewable energy target will also be included, as well as a more individualised statement for customers. Giving householders this information is a responsible exercise on the basis of price transparency alone. Queenslanders deserve to know what they are paying for. Importantly, it will also help families to assess whether the Commonwealth's promised compensation measures truly offset the cost impacts of the carbon tax.

The bill will also amend the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 to facilitate the establishment of the Office of Best Practice Regulation within the Queensland Competition Authority. The key functions of the Office of Best Practice Regulation will be to review and publicly report on regulatory assessment statements submitted by government departments for primary and subordinate legislation; publish an annual report on departmental performance against regulatory burden benchmarks; establish a process to review the existing stock of Queensland regulation; and investigate and report on matters related to competition, industry, productivity or best practice regulation at the direction of the responsible ministers.

As one of our 30-day commitments to getting Queensland back on track, this government promised to reduce real estate red tape by scrapping sustainability declarations. Amendments contained in this bill to the Building Act 1975 and Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000 do just that. Effective immediately on this bill receiving royal assent, real estate agents and sellers will be relieved of this unnecessary burden.

For most of us, buying and selling a house is the biggest commercial transaction we engage in. For this reason it is imperative that buyers and sellers have absolute certainty about their rights. This is why transitional provisions have been included in the bill to deal with transactions that may be affected by the repeal. Under the previous regime, the law made it clear that a misrepresentation contained in a sustainability declaration would not give rise to a right to terminate the contract. Instead, buyers who relied on the misrepresentation would have a right to compensation. The transitional provisions make it clear that this remains the case even after the repeal of the sustainability declaration.

There is no question that the community is interested in sustainability issues. This is particularly the case with solar hot-water and photovoltaic solar systems where people can save money on their power bills by installing this technology in their homes. In the end it is the market, not a government imposed form, that dictates what is attractive to buyers. Repealing the sustainability declaration will not prevent sellers from identifying sustainable features of their homes when they put them on the market for sale. Nor will it stop interested buyers from taking these features into account when they are comparing the merits of different properties. It will just mean that they are not required by law to do so and they will not be liable to a fine of \$200 if they do not.

Finally, there has been a tendency for reporting requirements to be mandated in annual reports to ensure that agencies comply with their responsibilities and accountabilities. This has resulted in a proliferation of isolated annual reporting requirements in recent years and criticism that annual reports are too long and the information disclosed too diffuse. A number of ancillary items that have been included in annual reports in the past will still be reported on but on agency websites. A minor amendment to the Carers (Recognition) Act 2008 is necessary to remove the requirement for specific disclosure in the annual report. I again reiterate that what we have promised we will deliver on and that this is the first step—a real step—in providing cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders.

First Reading



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (4.03 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.

Declared Urgent



Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (4.04 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Treasury (Cost of Living) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill.



Mr PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (4.04 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Treasurer. Labor will be opposing this motion. At the first opportunity those opposite are going to great lengths to show their true colours. The conservative government is showing worrying signs of what the next three years may bring. The core of parliamentary democracy is the role of the Legislative Assembly to analyse and scrutinise law that is put in place. This is the very first bill from the Treasurer. The Premier put one through earlier, but he was so quick on the trigger that unfortunately we were not able to jump.

What we see here is a proposal that because it has gone to, as the Premier said in public statements, the biggest committee of all, anything related remotely to election commitments may well be put through this parliament without going through the committee system. That is the very core of the responsibilities of members of parliament. We are here to represent all the people of Queensland and scrutinise in detail legislation that is proposed. That is the purpose of the committee system.

This proposal flies in the face of what we heard from the Premier when speaking to the previous bill. Essentially we heard from the Premier about the importance of the committee system. Now we are seeing the Treasurer wishing to put this bill through without it going to a committee, simply because they have gone to the so-called biggest committee of all. This is exactly what we should not be seeing here in Queensland.

We are here to scrutinise legislation and to go through it in detail. You might well get away with an election campaign full of gimmicks and slogans and putting up big-picture stuff, but this is where we get to the minutiae; this is where we get to the detail. It is very important that we look at what is included in the bill. The bill may well have some good points. We would like to look at this bill in detail before voting on it. We would like to see exactly what is in it. Rather, it is being brought on in such a rushed fashion.

What I have previously stated is still correct. This is the first opportunity to see this House operate under these new and unique arrangements. Those opposite are showing their true colours. I think they show contempt for this House and the broader community by saying, 'We do not need the committee system. We will put it through.' This bill should be put through a committee. There is no reason that cannot happen. Those opposite are looking to weaken the committee system. They are basically refusing to put legislation through committees, even though that was part of an election commitment. What is their definition of an election commitment or a campaign initiative? We do not know the answer to that. This is an arbitrary decision by this government. They are obviously going to continue to do this. This is a sign of things to come. It is very disappointing. People on that side of the House and those who come around to the other side of the horseshoe will be very disappointed if they do not think this is what they signed up for. They did not sign up to have things rushed through the House.

Mr Stevens: Queensland voted on it!

Mr PITT: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House. This is not the way this is meant to be. This is actually an election commitment; it is not a bill that has been put through the House. Committees should be looking at this. They should be scrutinising it.

Those opposite are ramming through this legislation without providing proper detail. This is not just about the opposition, the two members of Katter's Australian Party or the two Independents; this is actually about all of the members of the government, who should be looking at this and asking what part of this is going to affect their electorate. They are not getting the opportunity to put their case forward. This is being rammed through without any negotiation or scrutiny by this parliament. The Premier claimed that they would govern with humility, grace and dignity. It looks as though humility, grace and dignity are the orphans of the LNP. They are off to a very bad start.

Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (4.09 pm): I rise to speak in support of the need for this bill to be dealt with as an urgent bill. I took great interest in the comments just made by the member for Mulgrave. If we were not a government that is intent on saving money, we should publish those colossally arrogant comments and send them to every Queensland household, particularly the struggling households in the member's own electorate. We should make it very clear that once again we see what the Labor Party actually stands for: indecision and procrastination. They are so good at taking things to committees.

I spent seven years at the Brisbane City Council. For the first four years I was forced to try to take Brisbane City forward with a huge burden in my saddlebags. It was called a Labor Party majority. I had a Labor dominated city cabinet. Every Monday for about five hours now Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and I would listen to the nonsense of the Australian Labor Party councillors. Just in the past couple of days, but particularly today, I can see already from the comments made that it is in their DNA to procrastinate, to send things to committees and to never make decisions. On this issue there is an overwhelming need. I see it in their faces. They want to go to a committee, hold hands and sing *Kumbaya My Lord*, while across Queensland families are suffering due to their financial ineptitude and their poor and reckless financial management. We will not tolerate that.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: I think I have hit a raw nerve. The member for Mulgrave knows that he is on the end of the hook. He is struggling and jangling, trying to get off the hook. He knows he has committed a huge faux pas. We are trying to save money for families across Queensland, so why should we wait? What earthly reason could there be for waiting? What is so complex about this? For the benefit of the financial illiterates on the other side of the chamber, maybe we should again go through what this is all about. Fundamentally, this bill is about dealing with cost-of-living pressures.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: The person who is interjecting was part of the gang about which in recent times a few commentators have said, 'Gee, they should be in jail, particularly that Andrew Fraser guy.' That is what someone said to me; I am not saying it. A well-known media commentator said it to me behind closed doors. He felt that we had seen poor and reckless financial management.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The Leader of the Opposition is interjecting, but she was a party to decisions that created a \$2.8 billion deficit this financial year and that saw motor vehicle registration go up by 30 per cent. The Leader of the Opposition, who was the transport minister, has the absolute temerity to come in here and try to slow down cost-of-living relief.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: What would Labor know about due process? Let us look at its due process. What was the member for Mulgrave doing when the arrangements for the Yeppoon Hospital came through? Maybe he was not in the parliament at that time, but other people were around at that stage. The Yeppoon Hospital was dealt with in one afternoon. What about the local government arrangements, where they completely belted up and bashed up local government? Was that given to a committee for due process? No, not at all! What about the asset sales bill? How long did that spend before a committee? I see the beady eyes looking back at me. They are caught. I will say this about due process: when the Labor Party talks about due process, we go back to the actual spelling of the word 'hypocrisy'. Do honourable members know how to spell 'hypocrisy'? A-L-P! That is how you spell it. How dare they come in here this afternoon and talk about due process. They have no credibility whatsoever.

For the benefit of the financial illiterates opposite, let us look at what they are trying to hold up and what they are trying to stop for Queensland families. Do they want to keep family homes more expensive by having \$7,000 more in tax? Is that what they want? I am waiting for the interjections. Is it a good thing to slow down giving cost-of-living relief to those buying a family home? That is what this sort of unwanted intrusion into the orderly progress of the bill before the House this afternoon is all about. What about the payroll tax exemption? They are probably against that, because when I look across the

chamber I am looking for the small business opposition spokesperson. Bzzzz! I look around the chamber at my proud team and I see a few people who know about payroll tax, because they have paid it and they know how hard it is to make up staff payrolls each week.

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order. There is a longstanding tradition that members do not talk about a member who is absent from the chamber. I am not sure what that reason may be. Therefore, those comments should be retracted.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. There was no mention at all of assets or any particular member. It was a general comment.

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order. This has nothing to do with assets; this has to do with the fact that there was a reference to the small business shadow minister not being in the chamber. The Premier said, 'Bzzzz' to say that she was not in the chamber. That is what this is about.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! I have been listening carefully to the Premier's speech. I have not heard anything that, to my knowledge, has impeached on anyone else.

Mr NEWMAN: The bill seeks to freeze for one year tariff 11 electricity retail prices—that is, the family tariff. Does the member want higher electricity costs? Does he want families to pay higher electricity prices for longer? This bill is urgent because we want to give cost-of-living relief to families and businesses across Queensland. That is what we want to do.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: Again the Leader of the Opposition is interjecting and again I say that every Queenslanders should know about this disgraceful performance this afternoon. We went to an election and said that we would do these things. This afternoon we are trying to do it quickly and efficiently. I know the Labor Party. If we had not brought this bill forward, we would have had the Leader of the Opposition piously asking, 'When are they going to act? They are breaking their commitments. They aren't acting quickly enough.' Over this entire three-year term we will see breath-taking hypocrisy from the ALP, week after week and month after month.

The final thing I will say is this: what is so bad about removing sustainability declarations? What is so bad about getting rid of them as soon as possible? Any real estate agent can tell us what people are doing on their sustainability declarations. If I tabled a blank piece of paper, we would see what people have been providing to vendors, because they have not been filling out the questions. It is an unnecessary piece of red tape or green tape, and it should go. In conclusion, this bill is urgent because these are commitments and they need to be delivered. Through this package we will provide cost-of-living relief and reduce some red tape. I cannot see why the Australian Labor Party does not get it. If this is the way they are going to act over the next three years all I can say is, 'Thank you very much indeed, because that works for me.'

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (4.17 pm): I rise to participate in the debate on this very important bill that has been introduced into the parliament today. I listened to the Treasurer's speech and I have just listened to the Premier's contribution. He spoke about urgency and appeared to deride anyone who had some concerns about the proposed bill and the urgency of it. My interpretation of the bill is that the scheduled date for commencement is 1 July. The date of 1 July is the scheduled date for applicability to homebuyers, the payroll tax concession, the electricity amendments and, something that I certainly support, the proposed amendments to get rid of the ridiculous red tape and the sustainability declaration. My question to the Premier and the Treasurer is this: if there was so much urgency and they knew exactly what they were going to do, why have they left it until two minutes ago to introduce this bill into the House? Why was the Premier or the Treasurer not prepared to release a copy of this bill once all members of the parliament were declared, so that we had an opportunity to read the proposals before we walked into this chamber to debate the bill?

I support the urgency. My understanding is that this legislation is to apply from 1 July. Even so, there were a number of occasions in the past when urgent matters were pushed through previous parliaments and were backdated to ensure everyone was able to access the various concessions. I say to the government that I support what it is proposing in this bill. I do have one concern. If the government is really genuine in saying that it wants to have open and transparent government and it does not want to abuse the numbers it now holds in this House, why did it not table a copy of this legislation earlier than it did today? The reality is that in the past we have seen governments come in here and introduce urgent legislation and contained in the fine print—

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. I firmly believe that the member is under the misconception that this bill is being debated today. The bill will not be debated during the sitting this week; it will be debated during the sitting week of 5 to 7 June. If he cannot read it by then, he is not doing his job as a member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! I call the member for Nicklin and ask him to confine his comments to the motion.

Mr WELLINGTON: I resume my seat.

Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (4.20 pm): I want to speak to the urgency motion. Before the manager of opposition business—the Leader of the House to me—leapt to his feet, I was going to make the point that there will be time for consideration of the bill; it just will not be referred to committee. It will be brought back to the House for debate in the next sitting week, and I think that is perfectly reasonable. It was done prior to the introduction of the new committees. There were many occasions when a bill would be introduced on the first available sitting day, allowed to lay on the table and then be brought on for debate on a subsequent date. I think people are getting fairly hot under the collar about something which those opposite would have had much experience in dealing with.

I also take up a number of comments that the Premier made in terms of the need to get this through to deliver on our election commitments to deliver cost-of-living savings for Queenslanders in the way that we said we would. I also reflect on a number of the comments that the Premier made in relation to bills being pushed through. He mentioned the Yeppoon hospital bill, which was pushed through on the first day of a new parliament. I remember being in the House as a new member when it was pushed through on that day. I remember the former member for Rockhampton standing up and saying, 'This is an urgent matter that we went to the people with and the committee of the people have told us what they want us to deliver and so we will be able to deliver that.'

I do remember the local government bill that was pushed through by those opposite in one day. I remember because I was the last person to speak on that bill at 4 am when it was pushed through. I remember the asset sales bill that was pushed through during a budget sitting week on one day. I remember that debate going until 4 am. I remember those opposite guillotining debate on the clauses of the bill as we wanted to take them through one by one. I also remember the little trick that was put in that bill. Because it also dealt with the fuel subsidy, which had to be cancelled, there was a provision which said, 'and when this bill is passed, guess what? It will not even be called the fuel subsidy abolition bill anymore.' They were so proud of their work that they actually inserted a clause in the bill to change its name after it was passed. So we turn again to 2009. I remember coming into this place, again on the day after the parliament opened and the new vegetation management bill was forced down the throats of Queenslanders as the Labor Party paid off its debt to the radical green movement and tried to do in the farmers and the property owners throughout Queensland on the day after they were elected.

They forget nothing and they learn nothing. We remember it and we are doing the right thing. I heard the member for Mulgrave and Leader of Opposition Business say, 'You might have had some slogans and some big ideas out there,' and, sure, we had some big ideas. However, we certainly did not see any coming from the other side. Let me tell honourable members what we had. We had a fully detailed economic blueprint for Queensland to get Queensland back on track and we had a fully detailed costings and savings strategy signed off by Len Scanlan. What did we see from those opposite? A two pager that had to be printed from the *Brisbane Times* website because they never released it to anyone, and they said, 'Here it is'. We handed out—Premier, help me here. How many contracts with Queensland did we hand out? Who from the government side handed out a contract with Queensland? We handed out thousands and thousands of them at railway stations, bus stations and shopping centres throughout Queensland. What did we say we were going to do? We said we were going to cut the waste, deliver better infrastructure and planning, build a four-pillar economy and save families money by freezing the electricity tariff, by reintroducing the principal place of residence concession, by freezing car registration and by getting rid of the sustainability declarations. We have been saying it for a year. What is it that they have not heard in over a year?

This bill introduces a commitment that the people of Queensland want to see introduced from 1 July. I will deal with the comments of the member for Nicklin, and I know he sat down when he realised the bill was going to lay on the table for a little while. He said, 'Why have you delayed it? The parliament was only opened by the Governor yesterday at 2.10 pm. As soon as it was open and as soon as we had the opportunity, the bill was introduced. It will lay on the table. There will be time for reflection on it and there will be time for people to understand it.'

Let me conclude. Here is a speech from the now Leader of the Opposition. On 3 August 2011 when she was discussing an increase in car registration fees she also said this—

That is right. We have to stand up and say to Queenslanders, 'We know there are cost-of-living expenses. We know there are pressures.' That is why we offer a range of assistance, a suite of programs to help Queenslanders where we can.

Members opposite can help Queenslanders by supporting this bill, which freezes electricity prices and does all of those things. Do not stop it. I think there is more to it than this. I think this is part of a cunning plan. I recall that the day after the election the member for Mulgrave said, 'I wouldn't mind being the Leader of the Opposition.' He put his hand up and said, 'I want to be the Leader of the Opposition.' There was a bit of a powwow, a bit of a talk and everyone came together and they all said, 'No, no, no, it can't be you. It has to be the member for Inala.' The member for Inala did the numbers and got up and became the Leader of the Opposition. Then she said, 'There might be a threat coming. The member for Mulgrave might be making a move on me. I will tell you what. Here is my cunning plan. I will suggest to the member for Mulgrave that he get up and oppose something that is going to deliver cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders because that will be really popular. That is the cunning plan.'

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order. In no way have I opposed anything to do with cost-of-living measures. All I have asked is that this urgency motion be opposed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That is a point of view. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr PITT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I was not finished. I find those comments offensive and ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member has asked for the comments to be withdrawn.

Mr NICHOLLS: I retract. Here we have a cunning plan by the member for Inala, who wants to protect her position as Leader of the Opposition. Where is the member for South Brisbane? I have not seen the member for South Brisbane.

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I apologise. The member for South Brisbane has entered the chamber. Here we have the cunning plan: the member for Inala is putting the member for Mulgrave up as the fall guy for not delivering cost-of-living savings to Queenslanders as soon as they possibly can. I am sorry, member for Mulgrave, you have fallen for the plan. Member for Mulgrave, get behind it and support the urgency motion. Please, for the sake of Queenslanders and for yourself, get behind the plan.

Mr MULHERIN (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.29 pm): The opposition is not opposed to the bill—we will scrutinise the bill—but what we are opposed to is this urgency motion. As the member for Nicklin says, these changes in legislation will come into effect on 1 July. We have nine—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Member for Mackay, my apologies, but I need to put the motion to the House.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 77—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Menkens, Smith

NOES, 7—Byrne, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad. Tellers: Miller, Scott

Resolved in the affirmative.

Debate, on motion of Mr Pitt, adjourned.

~~HEALTH AND HOSPITALS NETWORK AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Message from Governor~~

Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (4.38 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

~~The Deputy Speaker read the following message—~~

MESSAGE

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS NETWORK AND OTHER

LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

~~I, PENELOPE ANNE WENSLEY, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—~~

~~A Bill for an Act to amend the Health and Hospitals Network Act 2011 and the Industrial Relations Act 1999 and to make minor or consequential amendments of Acts as stated in the schedule.~~

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 16 MAY 2012

~~Tabled paper: Message, dated 16 May 2012, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Health and Hospitals Network and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.~~

~~Introduction~~

Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (4.39 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Health and Hospitals Network Act 2011 and the Industrial Relations Act 1999 and to make minor or consequential amendments of acts as stated in the schedule. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Disabilities Committee to consider the bill.