

The Commonwealth minister made a determination under section 7 of the NVR act, which gives Queensland until 30 June 2012—just nine days away—to refer legislative power. If Queensland does not refer by this date, it will become a non-referring jurisdiction and ASQA will take over regulation of approximately 37 per cent of Queensland's over 1,540 RTOs—that is, those that deliver training to overseas students and/or operate in a referring jurisdiction. The bill will also abolish the Training and Employment Recognition Council—the Queensland regulator—and transfer its remaining functions mainly relating to apprenticeships and traineeships to Skills Queensland.

One of the key issues for us here in Queensland is that Queensland's referral of power excludes primary and secondary education, higher education, the establishment of public providers such as TAFE institutes, apprenticeships and traineeships, and the licensing of occupations. The Commonwealth parliament will not be able to legislate on these issues. The benefits of referring from a Queensland perspective have already been mentioned in this House. There is going to be a significant saving. The Department of Education, Training and Employment will be able to make a total saving of around \$3 million per annum through employing fewer regulatory staff. That, of course, will go towards reducing the deficit for the state that has been sadly introduced and foisted upon the people of Queensland by the previous Labor government.

Queensland RTOs will deal with only one regulator and will not have to change regulator as their business changes—that is, if they decide to deliver training in a referring jurisdiction such as New South Wales. What would happen if Queensland did not refer power? As I mentioned earlier, we have a deadline of 1 July. If Queensland does not refer power by 1 July 2012, there are serious consequences for RTOs and the department. Two regulators would operate in Queensland under different regulatory frameworks. This may be confusing for industry and consumers. It would also make it difficult to assure that quality of training is maintained. The department would not realise predicted total savings of approximately \$3 million per annum because it would need to retain regulatory staff who would otherwise transfer to the Commonwealth. There is an agreement to transition existing departmental employees to ASQA, but that agreement expires if Queensland does not refer by 1 July 2012. So that would also put employees into jeopardy. The department would need to review its RTO fees, and it is likely fees would need to increase to ensure that the Queensland regulatory model was sustainable in light of the reduced fee revenue Queensland would be receiving after 1 July 2012 when ASQA takes regulatory control of 37 per cent of Queensland's RTOs.

In the last minute that I have left, I would like to talk about the state seat of Coomera and some of the challenges that the state seat of Coomera has for young people involved in this type of training.

**Mr Malone** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** I take the interjection from the member. Yes, we are struggling with apprenticeships in boatbuilding. In fact, I know TAFE is reconsidering its position in that regard, but the issue goes further than that in that we are talking about transport issues. Trying to get young people who are under 17 who come from disadvantaged homes in and around the area up and down the highway into vocational education and training organisations in and around the Yatala precinct is one of those challenges. In closing, I would ask that we as a state consider transport options for young people from disadvantaged areas when we want to see them move to vocational education and training precincts in and around, for example, the Yatala precinct. I commend the bill to the House.


Debate, on motion of Mr Crandon, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

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## LAND PROTECTION LEGISLATION (FLYING-FOX CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to control the health risks posed by flying-foxes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Land Protection Legislation (Flying-fox Control) Amendment Bill 2012.

*Tabled paper:* Land Protection Legislation (Flying-fox Control) Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that after eight years, first as the member for Charters Towers and now as the member for Dalrymple, I am finally able to say that I fully support a bill that deals with the flying fox plague that has harassed Charters Towers residents and other communities in Queensland for more than a decade. The failure of successive governments, including the current government, to adequately understand or appreciate the destruction these pests have wrought on the town of Charters Towers is no excuse for the way the lives of people in my community have taken a back seat to the welfare of these pests.

The Land Protection Legislation (Flying-fox Control) Amendment Bill 2012 empowers landowners, including local governments, to take necessary and reasonable action to address the serious health risk presented by increasing concentrations of flying fox populations in residential areas. The bill also removes unnecessary penalties applying to the taking or handling of flying foxes or disturbing a flying fox roost.

The threat of disease and the intolerable living conditions for communities who have been forced to live with flying foxes in their tens of thousands are things that most members have to deal with directly, although I am sure the Deputy Premier will appreciate the implications of this bill for the Gayndah community. Flying fox populations are known to carry viruses deadly to humans: the Australian bat lyssavirus, which is closely related to common rabies lyssavirus; salmonella; leptospirosis; SARS; and Hendra virus. The Australian bat strain of lyssavirus has caused two human fatalities since it was discovered in Australia in 1996.

More concerning is the growing number of Hendra virus outbreaks amongst horse populations and the increased exposure to humans as a result. This virus has caused over 70 horse fatalities and four human fatalities since 1994. That is a 75 per cent fatality rate in horses and a 60 per cent fatality rate in humans. The recent discovery that the virus can be transmitted to dogs further escalates the risk to humans. This has been a ticking time bomb for Charters Towers, where a colony of flying foxes in their tens of thousands has established a roost in Lissner Park, right in the centre of town. I table my introductory speech.

*Tabled paper:* Land Protection Legislation (Flying-fox Control) Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory speech.

### First Reading



**Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.33 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.

### Referral to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.

## ~~PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS~~

### ~~Gold Coast, Tourism~~



~~**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.34 pm): I rise today to highlight an exciting era for cultural and event based tourism on the Gold Coast. We are in a prime position to promote and even rename the Gold Coast as 'Festival City' to help develop tourism in the region. With the Gold Coast being the sixth largest city in Australia and tourism the unquestionable pillar of the Gold Coast economy, festivals are a great way for tourism investment in our city, and these major drawcards for international, national and local tourists must not be ignored. From the international Magic Millions in January, to Rugby 7s, the National Finals Rodeo, the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships, the Quiksilver Pro surfing, the Pan Pacific Masters Games, the Gold Coast Airport Marathon, the Gold Coast Triathlon, the Surfers Paradise Festival and the Coolangatta Gold—just to name a few—they all lure much needed tourism dollars to the Gold Coast.~~

~~There are seven other 'Gold Coasts' around the world and, whilst I recognise this major international moniker, the word 'festival' intimates the importance and downright magnetism of our city for people to enjoy event based tourism and cultural tourism in our great region. The Blues on Broadbeach Music Festival, which drew a crowd of 85,000 this year, along with the Broadbeach Jazz Festival, which is coming up in August, pull in tourists locally, nationally and internationally that drives the economy of Broadbeach. The V8 motor racing carnival is a great example of sports tourism drawing tourists from everywhere across the nation and internationally.~~

~~I would like to make special mention of the Gold Coast Eisteddfod festival, with Kerry Watson and Judith Ferber doing a wonderful job of coordinating thousands of children, families and volunteers. There were 25,000 people attracted to this festival to see future young stars demonstrate their musical and artistic abilities. The end of year schoolies festival brings in much needed tourism dollars for the region from the 50,000 attendees, as does Cooly Rocks On, which is a fifties themed hot rod spectacular that is also great for the Gold Coast. Summafieldayze, Good Vibrations and the Big Day Out draw young people from across Australia and New Zealand who we would like to see return year after year to secure that ongoing tourism dollar for 'Festival City'.~~