

~~Madam Speaker, Queensland's current economic performance is respectable in absolute terms and strong in relative terms, but still far from our best.~~

~~While the aggregates show growth, we know that this growth depends heavily on a critical but narrow part of the economy—investment in the resource sector, and particularly the CSG to LNG processing and export industry.~~

~~We said during the election, and I will say it again today, that strong and vibrant agriculture, construction and tourism sectors are also essential to widespread recovery and wealth generation. That's why we are working so hard to grow those parts of our economy so long neglected by Labor.~~

### **Conclusion**

~~Madam Speaker, confidence is everything. As I travel and talk to people, the one word that crops up time and again is 'confidence'. Confidence to invest; confidence to expand; confidence to buy; confidence to learn; confidence in Queensland and confidence in its Government.~~

~~Madam speaker this Budget is about rebuilding confidence.~~

~~It does so by setting about the task of repairing Queensland's finances. It delivers a genuine surplus and gets our finances back on track and back in the black.~~

~~It provides confidence for Queensland families and businesses and invests in regional Queensland.~~

~~It will help keep the cost of living down, reinvest in our schools, deliver better health services and provide more for people with disabilities.~~

~~It delivers on all of our election commitments.~~

~~It outlines our vision to be the best Government in the nation; to be able to deliver smarter, simpler outcomes responsive to the needs of Queenslanders.~~

~~It outlines our reform agenda based around the choices an individual makes about their future, not what Government thinks is best.~~

~~It shows how we can work with the private sector to deliver better outcomes and make our funds go further.~~

~~The Newman LNP Government believes in Queensland's future.~~


~~I have an unshakeable confidence in our ability to meet the challenges of the 21st century and to reap the rewards of hard work, learning and endeavour.~~

~~This Budget starts to deliver a brighter future for all Queenslanders.~~

~~This is the most important Budget in a generation.~~

~~I commend the bills to the House.~~

### **First Reading**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (3.25 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.~~

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

## **FISCAL REPAIR AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (3.26 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Liquor Act 1992, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000 for particular purposes, and to make consequential or minor amendments of other acts as stated in the schedule. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Fiscal Repair Amendment Bill 2012.

*Tabled paper:* Fiscal Repair Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

## First Reading



**Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (3.27 pm): Madam Speaker, the bill I have presented amends a series of acts that are consequential upon the announcements that I have made in the budget. Details in relation to the changes and the reasons for those changes are contained in a speech which has been presented to your office and I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of the speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Following the Commission of Audit's Interim Report, a number of revenue measures are to be implemented to improve the overall fiscal position of the State.

I have already announced these in the 2012-13 State Budget. This Bill will give effect to several of these changes.

This Bill increases the maximum rate from 5.25% to 5.75% for the part of the value above \$1,000,000. Also, the 4.5% rate will now apply up to \$1,000,000.

As the Brisbane median house price is \$380,000 for first homes and \$433,500 for subsequent homes most transactions affected by the changes are expected to relate to non-residential properties such as shopping centres or office blocks. With the reintroduction of the transfer duty home concession from 1 July 2012, home buyers will still be better off under the new rates for homes up to around \$2,465,000.

Under the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, first home buyers may be eligible for a grant of \$7,000 when buying or building their home. This Bill increases the grant for new homes to \$15,000 from 12 September 2012. It also discontinues the grant for existing homes from 11 October 2012.

The First Home Owner Grant originally compensated first home buyers for the increase in housing costs due to the goods and services tax. The current consensus is that the grant is a relatively inefficient mechanism for improving home affordability. However, an increased grant for first home buyers purchasing a new home will benefit first home buyers and boost the housing construction sector.

The grant for existing homes will remain for a month so as not to disadvantage buyers now engaged in buying an existing home.

This Bill also makes a number of amendments to legislation to give effect to Budget savings measures, reduce red tape and enhance revenue administration.

Transfer duty is also being extended to direct and indirect transfers of exploration permits or authorities to prospect from 10.30am on 13 January 2012, the date of original announcement of this measure in the 2011-12 Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review.

Amendments will also ensure that grants of mining and petroleum rights including exploration permits and authorities will be exempt.

An issue has arisen in relation to indirect transfers of mining and petroleum rights to which landholder duty should apply. Landholder duty applies to the acquisition of an interest of 50 per cent or more in an unlisted corporation or 90 per cent or more in a listed corporation or listed unit trust with at least \$2 million of land in Queensland. Uncertainty about whether mining and petroleum rights constitute land for landholder duty will be addressed by ensuring consistent duty treatment of indirect and direct transfers of these rights.

There is also an issue following a recent Western Australian Supreme Court decision as to the application of landholder duty to items fixed to land that may be separately owned from the land. The Duties Act 2001 is to be amended to ensure that landholder duty continues to apply to these items as intended.

Since taking over responsibility for royalties in July last year, the Office of State Revenue has been identifying improvement opportunities. A key reform is the development of a royalties module in OSR's Revenue Management System which will improve royalty management and facilitate e-business.

Related to the RMS development, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the regulations are being amended to introduce penalty arrangements to support the new monthly royalty payment system. A robust and consistent interest model for unpaid royalties will also be introduced that, to the extent possible, mirrors interest applying under the Taxation Administration Act 2001. This will ensure the continued integrity of the monthly payment arrangements and ensure that interest applies similarly for unpaid royalties and the State's other major own source revenues. There will also be an ability to remit the return late lodgement fee where appropriate.

OSR has also taken over responsibility for the State Penalties Enforcement Registry. Initial review has highlighted the importance of access to quality information about debtor for identification and enforcement action.

Changes to the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 and the Taxation Administration Act 2001 will enable the Registrar to access information from public and private sector entities. This will enhance recovery, particularly facilitating data matching, and enabling more effective enforcement.

A consequential amendment will strengthen existing safeguards of confidentiality of information obtained by the Registrar. The State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 is therefore being amended to include a general confidentiality obligation for information acquired under that Act, with disclosure permitted in limited circumstances. One such circumstance will be where confidential information acquired by the Registrar may be provided to the Office of State Revenue for administration of its revenue laws, and vice versa.

Existing confidentiality obligations and disclosure provisions for particular enforcement processes will remain.

The Bill contains provisions to abolish the statutory position of the Training Ombudsman on

1 November 2012. This will reduce duplication of services and save government approximately \$393,000 per annum. Complaints by apprentices, trainees and their employers can be made instead to the Department of Education, Training and Employment, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal or the industrial commission depending on the matter.

This Bill will also introduce two amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 and the Liquor Act 1992: the creation of the Liquor and Gaming Commissioner and the removal of the requirement for employees of clubs and hotels who carry out gaming to be licensed.

Currently, the Queensland Liquor and Gaming Commission and the Chief Executive make decisions under the Gaming Machine Act and the Liquor Act.

In practice, the Commission meets monthly to consider gaming machine and liquor licence applications of significant community impact such as new club and hotel licences and extended trading hours. The process of referral from the chief executive to the Commissioner can make for a lengthy application process which can result in competitive disadvantages and serve as a disincentive to broaden business opportunities.

These amendments will amalgamate the roles and decision-making powers of the Commission and the Chief Executive into a new Liquor and Gaming Commissioner. It is not intended that these amendments will detract from established licensing processes under the Liquor Act and the Gaming Machine Act, but will rather streamline the decision-making process and remove unnecessary delays associated with the referral of applications to the Commission.

There will be no change to the rights of affected parties to appeal the decisions of the Commissioner to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Madam Speaker, this Bill will also repeal the requirement for employees who carry out gaming duties in a club or hotel to be licensed under the Gaming Machine Act. The amendment is an acknowledgement that the technology associated with modern gaming machines is effective in protecting the integrity of the game and there is a minimal risk of an employee affecting the outcome. In these circumstances, the imposition of a licensing regime on employees of clubs and hotels who carry out gaming duties can no longer be justified. However, employees who carry out gaming duties will continue to be required to undertake responsible service of gambling training.

Madam Speaker, in line with the Government's election commitment to reduce red tape and regulation by 20 per cent, the Government established the Office of Best Practice Regulation, within the Queensland Competition Authority, on 2 July 2012.

The OBPR will provide a rigorous and independent process for cutting red tape. Its roles include assessing the adequacy of Regulatory Impact Statements submitted by departments, and, from November 2012, determining whether a Regulatory Impact Statement is required in relation to any regulatory proposal.

Therefore, this Bill includes several minor amendments to the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 to enable the OBPR to more effectively undertake its range of functions and to provide adequate protection to agencies and public sector employees in disclosing information to the OBPR as part of these important processes. The Bill will also include the Repeal of Part 5 of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, to avoid potential conflicts with requirements under the revised RIS System Guidelines, which will be amended to reflect the role of the OBPR and to facilitate the Government's improvements to the RIS System. These amendments are an important step in the Government's commitment to improving regulatory outcomes for the community and business and reducing the burden of red tape on all Queenslanders.

Madam Speaker, I move that the bill be now read a first time.

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.

Debate, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk, adjourned.

## ~~FISCAL REPAIR AMENDMENT BILL~~

## ~~APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL~~

## ~~APPROPRIATION BILL~~

### ~~Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order; Cognate Debate~~



~~Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (3.28 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—~~

- ~~(1) That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Fiscal Repair Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill to enable the bill to be passed through all remaining stages of this week's sitting; and~~
- ~~(2) That in accordance with standing 172 the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, having already been treated as cognate bills under the provisions of standing order 176, be also treated as cognate with the Fiscal Repair Amendment Bill for the second reading debate but with separate questions being put with regard to the second reading of (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill; and (b) the Fiscal Repair Amendment Bill.~~

~~Question put—That the motion be agreed to.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

## ~~ADJOURNMENT~~



~~Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (3.29 pm): I move—  
That the House do now adjourn.~~

~~Question put—That the House do now adjourn.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~The House adjourned at 3.29 pm.~~