

~~Tabled paper: Disability Services (Your Life Your Choice) Amendment Bill 2012.~~

~~Tabled paper: Disability Services (Your Life Your Choice) Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce the Disability Services (Your Life Your Choice) Amendment Bill 2012. This government is committed to providing Queenslanders with a disability and their families with a quality disability service system that meets their needs and helps them to live the lives they want. We strongly believe that people with a disability should have the freedom to make choices about how they live, including the supports they receive. Our disability service system needs to reflect this.~~


~~The government has developed a strategy to strengthen Queensland's disability front line services that focuses on: streamlining and improving service access; increasing choice and control; promoting early intervention and prevention; providing better value for money; and reducing red tape for service providers so they can get on with the job of providing services to people with a disability. The strategy aligns Queensland with reforms nationally and in other jurisdictions, and ensures we are well positioned for any future National Disability Insurance Scheme. A key aspect of the strategy is to provide people with a disability with more choice and control over their funding for disability services and supports. It has been shown that disability service systems that promote the exercise of choice and control by clients deliver better quality of life for clients and more efficient services. The framework for self-directed funding, Your Life Your Choice, will enable people with a disability and their families to take control of the planning, purchase and review of their specialist disability support.~~

~~There are two ways a person will be able to have control over their funding: either by working with a host service provider to plan and purchase their services and supports or by receiving their funding directly. At this stage, self-directed funding through a host provider will be rolled out in a phased approach commencing by the end of the year. The Disability Services Act 2006 regulates the funding of disability service providers. This bill is necessary to amend the act to allow the government to provide funding directly to a person with a disability or their families. Currently, there are some clients who do receive funding directly. However, to do this they had to fit within a legislative funding model that is designed for the funding of disability service providers. With these amendments, a person seeking to manage their own funding will no longer need to form an incorporated association or a company and meet many of the requirements of a service provider.~~

~~The bill provides a head of power for the minister to approve funding to a person with a disability or another person on their behalf. This could be someone nominated by the person with a disability or, alternatively, a guardian, attorney or member of the person's support network. In the case of a child with a disability, a parent can receive funding to obtain services on the child's behalf. There must be a funding agreement to ensure there is a written agreement that clarifies each party's responsibilities and obligations. The agreement will be set out in plain English, and will outline the types of services and supports that can be purchased and other terms and conditions that ensure funding is used for its intended purpose. For example, there will be terms in the contract that allow the department to cease funding and recover any unspent funds as a debt where funds are not being used in accordance with the agreement.~~

~~These amendments will reduce red tape for people who want to manage their funding directly. It will bring Queensland into line with disability funding practices in other states and help the government deliver a disability service system that provides people with a disability with genuine choice and control over their disability supports and funding. I commend the bill to the House.~~

### **First Reading**

 **Hon. TE DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (12.58 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 Health and Community Services Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

## **FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (12.58 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend

the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2012.

*Tabled paper:* Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce a bill for an act to amend the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 to ensure that the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial and the operations of the Family Responsibilities Commission are extended by a further 12 months. The trial commenced in 2008 in the four communities of Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge. The objectives of the trial are to: restore social norms and local authority; and change behaviours in response to chronic levels of welfare dependency, social dysfunction and economic exclusion in the four trial communities. An essential component of the trial is the Families Responsibilities Commission established under the act.


Question put—That the debate be now adjourned.

Agreed.

~~Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.30 pm.~~

## ~~APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL~~

### ~~Message from Governor~~

 ~~Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.30 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.~~

~~The Speaker read the following message—~~

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) 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 authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2010, 1 July 2011, 1 July 2012 and 1 July 2013.~~


(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 10 SEP 2012

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 10 September 2012, recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2012.

### ~~Introduction~~

 ~~Hon. TJ NICHOLLS (Clayfield LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.31 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial years starting 1 July 2010, 1 July 2011, 1 July 2012 and 1 July 2013. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Committee of the Legislative Assembly to consider the bill.~~

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2012.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

~~I introduce the Appropriation Bill for the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service, which provides appropriation for the 2012-13 Budget. The Bill combines both the appropriation for the 2012-13 Budget and supplementary appropriation for 2010-11 and 2011-12.~~

~~The Government remains committed to the independence of the Legislative Assembly and this extends to the means by which public moneys are appropriated to ensure its continued functioning.~~

~~We are therefore adhering to the recent convention that the Legislative Assembly's appropriation be contained in a Bill separate from the Appropriation Bill for the other activities of government.~~

~~The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill will provide the necessary funds to ensure the continued operations of the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service.~~

~~These include advisory and information services to assist the Parliament, its Committees and Members to fulfil their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities, the services provided by the Parliamentary Library, Committee Office, Parliamentary Reporting Service, Chamber and Procedural Services, and Security and Attendant Services as well as the provision of accommodation, hospitality and Members' entitlements.~~

~~Madam Speaker, as well as a change in government this year, 2012-13 sees the first full year of operation of the new committee system. Both these milestones have entailed additional expenditure. This Bill makes allowances for these changes while still addressing the government's fiscal repair and reform agenda.~~

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~~Madam SPEAKER: The time for questions has expired.~~

## ~~SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS~~


### ~~School Group Tours~~

~~Madam SPEAKER: I acknowledge the schools visiting parliament today which are Eagle Junction State School, represented by the Treasurer, and St Joseph's Primary School from Murwillumbah in New South Wales.~~

## FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

Resumed from 11 September (see p. 1808).

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (3.31 pm), continuing: I rise to continue with the introduction of the Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2012. The Commission operates to restore local Indigenous authority and build stronger and more resilient communities through attaching behavioural obligations to the receipt of welfare payments. The Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2012 is a necessary pre-condition for an extension of the trial for a second time. The act and the trial were originally scheduled to expire on 1 January this year, but were extended for 12 months and currently expire on 1 January 2013. The key aim of any Indigenous community intervention must be to build the capacity of the community so community members can have greater control over determining their own future and reduce reliance on government support. That can only be achieved if the community is prepared to accept that challenge and the responsibility that goes with it. Sometimes, assistance is needed to achieve that.

The trial is a partnership between the Queensland government, the Australian government and the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership. The Queensland government is committed to maximising the benefits of the trial. The Australian government has also requested that the trial be extended for an additional 12 months. I had questions about extending the trial because we are still waiting for the results of an independent evaluation of the trial, which is being overseen by the Commonwealth government. My concern was that we did not have all necessary data to make a fully informed decision because the Commonwealth government has not provided the final evaluation report, which was due at the end of last year. The latest advice my department has is that the final report is now expected in November. I expect that the final evaluation report, when it is ultimately received, will inform future decisions in relation to the provision of more appropriate and effective services to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

As a precursor to extending the trial, my department undertook extensive stakeholder and community consultations in Brisbane, Cairns, Mossman Gorge, Coen, Hope Vale and Aurukun. Indications are that services provided through the trial have had some success in improving school attendance and reducing anti-social behaviour. The consultation demonstrated that there is widespread support for the continuation of the FRC for a further year and for the continuation of key programs associated with the trial, such as parenting assistance. A commonly held view emerged that those programs are having a positive effect on the behaviour of communities, with improved social cohesion compared to that before the trial.

The principal objective of the bill is to make the necessary amendments to the FRC act to ensure that the operations of the FRC are extended by 12 months to 1 January 2014. To address the practical difficulties that have been experienced because the current provisions relating to the FRC board require that all three board members attend meetings, the bill removes this requirement and provides that a quorum for these meetings is composed of two members.

Trial processes have been reviewed as part of the review of all programs by this government. For the continuation of the trial, changes are proposed to the overall governance arrangements and improved reporting requirements to ensure the greatest benefits for the communities involved. Community leaders from the four communities will be invited to be part of a new advisory board with representatives from the state and Commonwealth governments and a representative of the Cape York institute to oversee the trial during the extension period. The board will provide advice to me on how \$4 million in project based funding provided by the Queensland government for the trial extension might be used. These new governance arrangements will be linked to the implementation of rigorous project management to ensure that services are delivered and milestones are achieved together with close scrutiny of each project to ensure value for money.

To ensure the continued operation of the FRC for a further 12 months, amendments to the FRC act need to be passed and given assent or proclaimed prior to the expiry of the current act on 1 January 2013. The appointment or re-appointment of commission and board members will also be required. Extending the operation of the FRC for a year will provide continued support for the restoration of socially responsible standards of behaviour and local authority in the trial communities and improve the wellbeing of community members. The Cape York Welfare Reform trial is driven by a basic principle, which underlies the Newman government's Indigenous agenda—that state government programs and funding are directed towards improving the stability and sustainability of Indigenous communities. Our focus is on overcoming disadvantage by providing support and structures which enable communities to achieve better social and economic outcomes in areas like health, housing, education and employment. I look forward to continuing to work with the Commonwealth government and Indigenous communities in the pursuit of one aim: assisting Indigenous Queenslanders to secure a better standard of living and quality of life. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading



**Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (3.38 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 Health and Community Services Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Watts): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

## ~~WATER LEGISLATION (DAM SAFETY AND WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

### Introduction



**Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (3.38 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electricity Act 1994, the Water Act 2000, the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Regulation 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Water Legislation (Dam Safety and Water Supply Enhancement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

*Tabled paper:* Water Legislation (Dam Safety and Water Supply Enhancement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 explanatory notes.

The Water Legislation (Dam Safety and Water Supply Enhancement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill implements a number of the recommendations of the final report of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry delivered in March 2012, and also reduces the regulatory burden on some of the water services industry.

The government responded to the commission's final report of 7 June 2012 by committing to implement all 177 recommendations. This bill demonstrates that the government has taken swift action to deliver on the changes needed to improve Queensland's preparedness to deal with future floods or other disasters.

The government acknowledges the pain and suffering caused by the devastating floods of 2010–11 and that some people are still going through the process of rebuilding their lives. The initiatives in this bill will help the community to be better informed and better prepared for any similar events in the future.

This bill addresses nine dam safety recommendations. It will provide a more transparent regulatory framework to govern dams and will improve resilience and engagement between owners of referable dams—those that potentially pose a risk to people if they were to fail—and local communities.

The bill amends the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to introduce objective criteria to assist the minister determine which water supply dams with sufficient flood storage capacity should be operated under an approved flood mitigation manual. The bill provides for the responsible minister to consider the criteria in nominating dams as flood mitigation dams. This will provide clarity on the purpose of flood mitigation manuals and will provide a sound platform for consideration of the outcomes