

The bill also delivers on the 2012 budget decision to cease court referred youth justice conferencing by removing the court's ability to refer a young person to a youth justice conference either as an indefinite referral or as a referral prior to sentencing. The bill provides for transitional amendments to ensure that any conferences referred by a court prior to the amendments taking effect may continue to be progressed and finalised. In addition to the removal of court referred conferencing, the bill removes references to the redundant role of youth justice conferencing coordinator and places responsibility for these functions with the chief executive.

The bill also makes amendments to the Anti Discrimination Act 1991. Recently, a motel operator was found to have contravened the Anti Discrimination Act by refusing to provide accommodation to be used for prostitution purposes. The bill inserts a new exemption in the act to protect businesses from this sort of complaint and give them control over the use that is made of their premises. The exemption allows a person to lawfully discriminate against another person in relation to accommodation if they reasonably believe that the other person is using or intends to use it in connection with that person's work or another person's work as a sex worker. The exemption would justify a refusal of accommodation on the grounds that the person is a sex worker, a sex worker's procurer or a sex worker's customer if they are using or intend to use the accommodation to carry on prostitution. However, it will not allow a person to refuse to provide accommodation to someone merely because the other person is a sex worker.

There are also amendments to the Anti Discrimination Act to exempt requirements of citizenship or visa status in government eligibility policies. The exemption will only apply to government policies for the provision of financial or other assistance, services or support and will only extend to citizenship or visa status criteria. It is not a blanket exemption for government policies in relation to other grounds covered by the Anti Discrimination Act. Public resources are finite. Limits must often be placed on who is eligible for government funded assistance. The exemption will ensure that government entities can adopt and implement assistance policies based on citizenship or residency without being exposed to litigation which would further deplete scarce public resources.

Amendments in the Fiscal Repair Amendment Act 2012 combined the roles and decision making of the Queensland Liquor and Gaming Commission and the chief executive under the Gaming Machine Act and Liquor Act and transferred them to a new Liquor and Gaming Commissioner. The amendments were to commence on 1 July 2013. However, given the benefits to industry and the government in streamlining the decision making process, it would be preferable for the amendments to commence on 1 January 2013 to maximise their effect. Therefore, to achieve this a minor amendment is made to the Fiscal Repair Amendment Act 2012. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana LNP) (Attorney General and Minister for Justice) (12.12 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 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date



Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana LNP) (Attorney General and Minister for Justice) (12.13 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Youth Justice (Boot Camp Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 22 November 2012.

Question put That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RACING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2012

Introduction



Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12.13 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998,

the Racing Act 2002 and the Wagering Act 1998 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

Tabled paper: Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012: explanatory notes.

Today I introduce the Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012. The bill delivers on the government's election commitment to rejuvenate the Queensland racing industry by: removing Racing Queensland Ltd as the control body for racing in Queensland and establishing the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board in this role; establishing a code-specific board for each code of racing; establishing and transferring appropriate racing integrity functions to the government; and providing a competitive environment for Queensland bookmakers.

The Newman government was elected on a platform of rejuvenating Queensland's racing sector after it was brought to its knees by the former Labor government. In 2010, under the former Labor government, amendments to the Racing Act 2002 amalgamated the then three control bodies into a single control body, Racing Queensland Ltd. The spectacular carelessness and arrogance of those who were put in charge of RQL is still being felt in the industry today. Whilst Labor turned a blind eye, those who were charged with running the racing industry in this state were instead running the racing industry into the ground. Much like their political masters, RQL's dodgy deals, sweetheart pay-offs and questionable business practices will be their legacy.

Currently, Racing Queensland is a company limited by guarantee with no requirement to consult or consider the basic needs and views of those who actually derive an income from or participate in the racing industry. Our bill proposes to remove Racing Queensland Ltd as the control body for the thoroughbred, harness and greyhounds codes of racing and establish the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board in this role.

Vitality, to address long held industry concerns that the principal racing authority has no direct interaction with code participants and licensees in each specific racing code have no code-specific board with which to interact, the bill also proposes to establish three separate code-specific boards: the Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board; the Queensland Harness Racing Board; and the Queensland Greyhound Racing Board. The 30,000 people who rely on the racing sector for their employment will once again have a voice.

The functions of the code-specific boards will include but not be limited to: reviewing and making recommendations regarding allocation of race dates and prize money; making recommendations in relation to amendments or enhancements to their code's rules of racing; undertaking ongoing consultation with code stakeholders; and developing a five-year rolling strategic infrastructure plan. As previously mentioned, our amendments also provide for the removal of Racing Queensland Ltd as the control body and the establishment of the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board to fulfil that function. Important to note is the fact that the three chairs of the code-specific boards plus an additional two members will make up this entity.

This board's composition and structure ensures that the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board will derive and retain its legitimacy and authority by virtue of the fact that it is truly representative of the sector. The functions, roles and purposes of the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board are to: act as the principal racing authority—control body—for the purposes of satisfying national and international racing authority's governance and regulatory requirements; identifying, assessing and developing responses to strategic issues relevant to the racing industry as a whole, including wagering negotiations and television rights deals; developing and implementing responses to strategic challenges faced by the relevant individual codes of racing or the industry as a whole; leading and facilitating negotiations between two or more code-specific boards about strategic issues and agreements that affect the relevant individual codes of racing or the industry as a whole; and provide administrative and corporate support to code-specific boards to enable them to deliver their functions and meet their objectives.

In terms of giving the industry a genuine say in who represents it, a board recruitment process will be instituted which fulfils both the spirit and the practical application of the LNP's commitments. The code-specific boards will consist of three non-executive independent members selected by an independent selection panel. The chairs of these code-specific boards and two other members identified by the independent selection panel will be appointed to the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board by the Governor in Council upon the recommendation of the minister.

018 Prospective members of the code-specific boards and the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board will be identified through a recruitment process conducted by an executive recruitment company engaged by the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. The recruitment company will provide details of the short-listed candidates to a selection panel appointed by the minister. In establishing a selection panel, the minister must consult with the persons involved in the racing industry. The minister will consider the recommendations of the selection panel with the Governor in Council to appoint board members.

Once Racing Queensland Ltd is abolished, the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board becomes the control body for racing and all assets, employees, instruments, authorisations and liabilities of Racing Queensland Ltd will be transferred to it. The bill proposes that the employees of Racing Queensland Ltd be transferred to the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board and continue to be employed under the applicable industrial relations system, whether federal or state, that they were employed under prior to the transfer. Amendments propose that a person who is an employee of Racing Queensland Ltd becomes an employee of the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board on the same terms and conditions of employment as applied to the person immediately before the commencement of the amendments. The Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board will assume liability for outstanding leave entitlements and recognise the employees' length of service at the date of transfer.

Our government has promised to restore accountability to racing, and one of the most important ways we will do so is by taking on responsibility for racing integrity functions. The bill proposes to transfer appropriate racing integrity functions to government through the establishment of the Racing Disciplinary Board to replace the existing appeals committees established by Racing Queensland Ltd. The Racing Disciplinary Board will be responsible for the initial hearing of all appeals from administrative and disciplinary decisions of the Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board and stewards' inquiries. A person appointed as a member of the Racing Disciplinary Board must either be legally qualified or have knowledge of the rules of racing for one or more codes of racing. The bill requires that any hearing conducted by the Racing Disciplinary Board must be conducted by a legally qualified member and a member with specific knowledge of the relevant code of racing.

The Newman government is responding to overwhelming feedback from the industry that they deserve a fair and transparent appeals system. Appeal hearings will be presided over by persons who have legal qualifications or a thorough knowledge of the rules that govern the operation of the racing industry. A key provision of the bill requires that at any hearing conducted by the Racing Disciplinary Board the control body cannot be legally represented unless the licensee is also legally represented. This provision addresses concerns voiced by licensees that they have previously been forced to incur significant legal expenses to level the playing field in appeals against decisions of the control body.

It is also proposed to establish a Racing Integrity Commissioner to provide independent oversight of integrity issues across the three codes of racing and conduct audits and integrity related investigations. The Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board will be required to meet the costs associated with the operations of the Racing Disciplinary Board and the Racing Integrity Commissioner.

Proposed amendments to the Racing Act and the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998 will allow bookmakers to use internet based technology to conduct their business, both at the racecourse and at other off-course premises approved by the minister. This will allow Queensland bookmakers to be more competitive with their interstate counterparts, especially the corporate bookmakers who have had a free ride on the Queensland racing industry for too long. To ensure these changes also provide the benefit of strengthening the local bookmakers' rings, bookmakers will need to conduct on-course, face-to-face bookmaking for a minimum number of meetings to gain an off-course approval.

The Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board will be responsible for approving any telecommunications system used by a bookmaker and monitoring it, as currently occurs with telephone-only bookmaking under the Racing Act. However, any system for bookmaking approved by the control body will be required to demonstrate appropriate integrity standards and safeguards to protect both the bookmaker and customers. Accordingly, the bill requires any online systems used for bookmaking to be independently certified to protect the public interest.

Wagering conducted under the Racing Act has always been exempted from being classified as an interactive game under the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998. Accordingly, the bill proposes amendments to maintain this exemption for bookmakers conducting business via internet based technology. Amendments to the Wagering Act are required to extend the funding for the Racing Industry Capital Development Scheme from 2014 to 2015. The scheme provides funding for priority infrastructure upgrades at racing venues across the state of Queensland. The amendments to the Wagering Act 1998 allow the provision of funding of \$110 million for the industry from the scheme, which fulfils the government's election commitment.

In closing, the Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 will continue the LNP's delivery of our Rejuvenating Queensland Racing election policy. By introducing amendments which truly give industry participants a greater and meaningful say in how their specific code, as well as the industry more broadly, is run—a freedom denied to grassroots participants by the former government—we will be in a position to deliver on our core commitment to rejuvenate racing in this state.

First Reading



Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing)
(12.25 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.

Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee

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

~~Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date~~



~~**Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12.25 pm), by leave, without notice: I move~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Health and Community Services Committee report to the House on the Racing and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 22 November 2012.~~

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

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND BILL~~

~~Introduction~~



~~**Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (12.26 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the establishment of Tourism and Events Queensland and for the establishment of the Tourism and Events Queensland Employing Office for purposes related to tourism and events for Queensland. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Tourism and Events Queensland Bill 2012.~~

~~Tabled paper: Tourism and Events Queensland Bill 2012, explanatory notes.~~

~~It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Tourism and Events Queensland Bill 2012, which will cause the Tourism Queensland Act 1979 to be repealed. Tourism is one of the largest contributors to the state's economy, employing more than 120,000 Queenslanders, directly and indirectly. That is almost 10 per cent of Queensland's jobs. The Newman government recognises tourism as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. As a government we have worked quickly to honour our election commitments, including the establishment of a stand-alone department and the fostering of a genuine whole of government approach to tourism.~~

~~Queensland is blessed with a suite of highly desirable attractions and an enviable climate. Variety abounds, from our Great Barrier Reef and our exquisite rainforests to our golden beaches. The government is determined to return Queensland to its rightful place as Australia's No. 1 tourist destination. Our plan to rebuild tourism is to have a more coordinated and strategic approach to attracting visitors, whether they come for holidays, events, business events, conventions, or visiting family and friends. Tourism and events are intrinsically linked. In order to maximise their efforts and reinvigorate our beloved tourism industry, so neglected under Labor, the Newman government will merge these two entities. We propose to bring together Events Queensland and Tourism Queensland into a single entity to be called Tourism and Events Queensland. The Tourism and Events Queensland Bill will deliver this.~~

~~The bill continues Tourism Queensland in existence as Tourism and Events Queensland and transfers the assets and liabilities of Events Queensland to the entity. It includes provisions around governance and structure for the entity. The bill specifies the functions for Tourism and Events Queensland, which remains a statutory body and covers its dual tourism and events role. Functions include: the promotion and marketing of Queensland; tourism experience and destination development; and identifying, attracting, developing and promoting major events. The functions also reflect the need to work in partnership with the tourism industry, a process that is off to a positive start with the signing of an agreement with the Queensland Tourism Industry Council in June this year.~~

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Mrs Stuckey continuing

~~A board will oversee Tourism and Events Queensland and ensure it performs in an effective and efficient way. The board will comprise at least eight members and the director-general of the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. Current members of the Corporation of Tourism Queensland will transition to the board. We have recently appointed some highly~~