

~~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to introduce the Tourism and Events Queensland Bill 2012, which will cause the Tourism Queensland Act 1979 to be repealed.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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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 qualified new members to the corporation who will bring a strong, strategic focus and a wealth of

experience to the new entity. The bill also establishes a chief executive officer role with responsibility for managing the entity's operations in accordance with the board's priorities.

Tourism and Events Queensland will operate according to the highest standards of governance, accountability and transparency. Those standards are outlined in the Financial Accountability Act 2009, the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982. The minister will be able to give the entity a statement of expectations to ensure it operates in the broader context of the government's priorities. The entity will be required to respond with a statement of intent about how it proposes to comply with the expectations. This approach is based on that adopted by the Australian government for Tourism Australia. It will also require the entity to submit its strategic plan to the minister for approval.

Finally, the bill continues the Tourism Queensland Employing Office in existence as the Tourism and Events Queensland Employing Office. It also provides for the recognition of length of service and accrued leave entitlements of Events Queensland employees who transfer to the new entity. Once the bill is passed, we will wind up Events Queensland.

Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland have been successful separately. Together they will be able to better leverage all their activities to grow visitor expenditure. Bringing them together will also ensure all efforts to attract visitors and events are focused on achieving the best results and the greatest value for money for Queensland taxpayers. I have no doubt that one entity is the best way to maximise our share of the domestic and international visitor markets and help us achieve our goal of doubling overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion a year by 2020.

Our plans to get the tourism industry back on track have already resulted in significant progress being made, especially since the landmark DestinationQ forum held in Cairns in June. We listened to the industry and the people on the ground right across Queensland and we will continue to do so.

While I am delighted with the progress to date, there is still a lot of hard work to do before we can reach our 2020 target. Tourism and events are key drivers of our economy and bringing them together into one entity is one more step to help us achieve this target. This bill will provide a streamlined approach and foster a close working relationship with government, agencies and industry and send a message that Queensland tourism is back on track. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading



**Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (12.32 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 State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee.

### ~~Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date~~



~~**Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (12.33 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136, the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee report to the House on the Tourism and Events Queensland Bill by 22 November 2012.~~

~~I move that motion for the following reasons, which were so eloquently outlined by the Deputy Premier when introducing the Economic Development Bill. As he stated, each bill requires a different level of scrutiny. Some do not require detailed public submissions or input. The Tourism and Events Queensland Bill is one such bill. It is a process bill that addresses the operating mechanisms of Tourism Queensland and Events Queensland.~~

~~The bill will give the 130 staff in Tourism Queensland and 18 staff in Events Queensland certainty over their future. The current legislation limits the number of members on the TQ board, which means that a full board cannot legally meet and make decisions to proceed regarding policy. The current legislation has hamstrung the performance of both of those organisations due to this lack of certainty. Therefore, the planning for position descriptions, salary parity and the like cannot be determined until the certainty of the structure is delivered.~~

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

~~Motion agreed to.~~