

~~across the state. The Gas Scheme has served its purpose, with nearly 20 per cent of electricity currently being sourced from gas fired generators. The continued application of the Gas Scheme in its present form, combined with the effect of the carbon price, would likely result in a duplication of costs to Queensland's electricity providers, which would be passed on to consumers.~~

~~The proposed amendments to the Electricity Act clarify that 2013 will be the final liable year for the Gas Scheme. Additionally, these amendments provide clarity to Gas Scheme participants that no annual fees will be charged for the 2014 calendar year. The Gas Scheme will operate with normal administration procedures for the 2013 liable year. To ensure participants comply with their legal commitments for the 2013 liable year, appropriate monitoring and enforcement powers will remain in place until 30 June 2014.~~

011 ~~Part 9 of the Electricity Act will be amended to include transitional provisions to allow for the expiry of the gas scheme. The gas scheme will expire on 30 June 2014. Beyond this date, all relevant registrations, accreditations and exemptions will expire. Similarly, all unexpired gas electricity certificates will expire on 30 June 2014. The amendments additionally make it clear that gas electricity certificates hold no value beyond 30 June 2014. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in Hansard.~~

~~Leave granted.~~

~~The Smart Energy Savings Program requires businesses with energy use above specified thresholds to undertake energy audits and report their energy saving strategies to the government. The government believes that as part of prudent management, businesses will be incentivised to identify energy savings to boost their bottom line. Forcing businesses to identify these savings and then report on them adds red tape for no reason.~~

~~Consistent with the platform of red tape reduction, the government decided to cease the SESP and repeal the Clean Energy Act 2008. Ceasing the operation of the gas scheme and the SESP will reduce the administrative burden and complexity for government and industry. This will decrease pressure on electricity costs to consumers and remove programs duplicated by the Commonwealth Government's Carbon Price.~~

~~The repeal of the Clean Energy Act, legal amendments to the Electricity Act and transitional provisions proposed in this bill meet the government's commitment to reduce red tape on business and the community.~~

~~The deamalgamation of Noosa from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council will take effect on 1 January 2014.~~

~~Amending the South East Queensland (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 will enable Unitywater, the Northern Distributor-Retailer Authority in South-east Queensland, to continue to provide the Noosa Shire Council area with water and sewerage services.~~

~~The proposed amendment enables the new Noosa Council to become a participating local government in the retail distribution business Unitywater, which will then be able to continue to supply water and sewerage services to the area.~~

~~In order for this to occur the Bill will add Noosa Council to the list of participating councils for Unitywater from 1 January 2014.~~

~~Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House. >~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Hon. MF McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (3.41 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.~~

~~<QUEENSLAND BUILDING SERVICES AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Introduction~~

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (3.41 pm): <I present a bill for an act to amend the Queensland Building Services Authority Act >1991 to replace the Queensland Building Services Authority with a new commission, and to make

consequential or minor amendments of the Building Act 1975 and the acts as stated in schedule 1 for related purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Queensland Building Services Authority Amendment Bill 2013.

Table paper: Queensland Building Services Authority Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes.

The building and construction industry is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy, and this government is committed to putting the right framework in place to allow it to continue to drive growth in our state.

This bill facilitates the biggest reform of building industry regulations in more than two decades and will ensure that Queenslanders have the best building regulator in the country. The aim is to strike the right balance between consumers and contractors. It is about building confidence in the industry, whether that is confidence to build a new home or renovate an existing one, or the confidence to start or grow a business or pursue a career in the industry.

In August 2012, this parliament agreed to a motion that the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee inquire into and report on the operation and performance of the Queensland Building Services Authority. On 30 November 2012, the parliamentary committee tabled in the Legislative Assembly its report recommending far-reaching changes to the Queensland Building Services Authority. My department then appointed a panel of three experts to fully assess the recommendations of the parliamentary committee. I thank those panel members—Mr Phil Kesby, Mr Andrew Wallace and Mr David Hanna—and the director-general of my department, Mr Neil Castles, for their valuable assistance in developing the government's response.

The government response, which was tabled on 29 May 2013, includes a 10-point action plan to overhaul building regulation in this state. This bill today sets in motion points 1 and 2 of the action plan, which will see us establish the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, QBCC, in place of the Queensland Building Services Authority. The new commission will have a professional governing board and a commissioner who will be appointed by, and report to, the governing board. The board of the QBCC will set the strategic direction and the operational, financial and administrative policies of the commission. It will report to me directly on matters of performance and on issues affecting the building industry and consumers.

This is a significant departure from the system used by the Building Services Authority, where the board served in a purely advisory capacity with no real authority. The board will also ensure that the commission performs its functions and exercises its powers in a proper, effective and efficient way, making and reviewing policies governing the administration of the act, providing guidance and leadership to the commissioner, and advising me about unfair trading practices affecting the security of payments to subcontractors.

There will be seven members of the board, including a chair and a deputy chair, appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of not more than three years. The commissioner will not be a member of the board. Board positions will be advertised following the passage of this bill, with members to be selected on the basis of their relevant expertise and experience as a member of a governing board. The commissioner will be appointed by the board, subject to my approval, for a term of not more than three years, with the role being akin to that of a chief executive. General managers will be responsible for each of the three main business units, those being licensing, dispute resolution and the home warranty scheme, with these units being firewalled from each other to prevent any potential conflict of interest.

As the responsible minister, I will have the power to give formal directions to the commission. These are to be tabled in parliament. Any formal policies of the board governing the administration of the act will need to be endorsed by me as part of the approval process by the Governor in Council, as these policies are required to be approved by a regulation.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill is only the start. Points 3 to 10 of the action plan contain a raft of other measures, including: early intervention in the dispute process; improved accountability of the certification of building work; possible changes to the scope of the Home Warranty Insurance Scheme; improved consumer awareness and industry training; a review of the professional development, licensing and compliance for contractors; and expanded licensing role of the commission. These changes will be implemented progressively by the new commission in consultation with industry and stakeholders. Ultimately we want to see fewer disputes, fewer cases going to QCAT and faster resolution of those disputes that do arise.

The building and construction industry is one of the pillars of our economy, and it is important that we make sure that there is a level playing field for all participants, whether consumers or contractors. The reforms set in motion by this bill are an important step towards making sure that the building industry can continue to drive growth in our state. I commend the bill to the House.>

First Reading

Hon. TL MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (3.46 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 Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee.

<JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney General and Minister for Justice) (3.46 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

The Speaker read the following message—

MESSAGE

~~JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2013~~

~~Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68~~

I, PENELOPE ANNE WENSLEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

~~A Bill for an Act to amend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013, the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973, the Appeal Costs Fund Regulation 2010, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, the Child Employment Act 2006, the Child Employment Regulation 2006, the Civil Proceedings Act 2011, the Coroners Act 2003, the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, the Dispute Resolution Centres Act 1990, the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Electronic Transactions (Queensland) Act 2001, the Evidence Act 1977, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Information Privacy Act 2009, the Judges (Pensions and Long Leave) Act 1957, the Judicial Remuneration Act 2007, the Justices Act 1886, the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991, the Land Court Act 2000, the Legal Aid Queensland Act 1997, the Legal Profession Act 2007, the Magistrates Act 1991, the Magistrates Courts Act 1921, the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992, the Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, the Recording of Evidence Act 1962, the Retirement Villages Act 1999, the Right to Information Act 2009, the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, the Succession Act 1981, the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991 and the Trusts Act 1973 for particular purposes~~

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 4 JUN 2013

~~Tabled paper: Message, dated 4 June 2013, recommending the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013~~

Introduction

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney General and Minister for Justice) (3.46 pm): ~~That is only an eighth of my ministerial responsibilities! I present a bill for an act to amend the~~ >Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Holding Act 2013, the Acts Interpretation Act 1954, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, the Appeal Costs Fund Act 1973, the Appeal Costs Fund Regulation 2010, the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003, the Child Employment Act 2006, the Child Employment Regulation 2006, the Civil Proceedings Act 2011, the Coroners Act 2003, the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, the Dispute Resolution Centres Act 1990, the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Electronic Transactions (Queensland) Act 2001, the Evidence Act 1977, the Guardianship and Administration