

~~demands of commodity and trading interests while maintaining a high level of safety standards, managing any impact to the environment. Annually, there are around 10,000 piloted movements facilitating the import and export of 220 million tonnes of cargo in the ports located north of Brisbane. The Port of Brisbane alone has 6,000 piloted movements with 33 million tonnes of cargo.~~

~~Port pilotage is a compulsory service, applied to most ships 50 metres and longer that visit Queensland ports. A marine pilot is a qualified ships master who has a high level of skills in ship handling and a detailed knowledge of the port area in which they work. Marine pilots have the difficult task of manoeuvring very large vessels in what can sometimes be congested waterways with a number of environmental factors to consider. It is the responsibility of the pilot to assist the master of the ship to operate safely within the pilotage area. Due to their local knowledge, a pilot reduces the risks to port infrastructure and the marine environment associated with ship movements.~~

~~There are 69 marine pilots and 14 pilot vessel transfer crew members currently employed by MSQ and it is a legislative requirement that pilots may only carry out their duties if they are employed by or are acting under an agreement with MSQ. This service delivery is currently provided either under contract, as in the Port of Brisbane, or through pilots directly employed by MSQ. The bill will facilitate the transfer of the responsibility for the provision, or to arrange provision of, pilotage services along with employees, assets and liabilities necessary to undertake this function from MSQ to port authorities. This legislation provides the ability for port authorities to develop innovative business solutions around the delivery of service while maintaining the state's enviable safety record. The bill also places a general safety obligation on entities in the provision of pilotage services and ensures that this safety obligation is extended to parties who may be contracted to deliver this service.~~

~~As a government, we want to retain experienced and talented marine pilots in Queensland. In the current environment, once pilots are trained there is no guarantee that they will be retained within government as there is competition for their services interstate. Placing them with local port authorities will mean local decision making and lessen the likelihood of them leaving to take up positions interstate. Under the proposed legislation, all 69 pilots will remain in their current positions with no changes to their conditions. During the transition provision, the state government will retain responsibility for pricing, ensuring the same level of service delivery. Overall, this bill will reduce red tape, keep local talent in Queensland and help ports in Queensland to drive efficiencies to respond to the current industry demand. I commend this bill to the House.~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Hon. SA EMERSON (Indooroopilly—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (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 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.~~

~~Sitting suspended from 12.58 pm to 2.30 pm~~

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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) (2.30 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 2013.

Tabled paper: Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2013 to ensure the operations of the Family Responsibilities Commission are extended by a further 12 months. The Family Responsibilities Commission, known as the FRC, is established under the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 and is the centrepiece of the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial. The trial, which commenced in 2008, operates in the four communities of Hope Vale, Aurukun, Coen and Mossman Gorge. The trial operates as a partnership between the Queensland and Australian governments and the Cape York Institute.

With the FRC as its driving force, the trial aims to rebuild social norms, re-establish Indigenous authority, increase engagement in the real economy and move individuals and families from social housing to homeownership. The trial's aims are achieved by providing opportunities through enhanced services and a range of incentives and disincentives including income management of welfare payments. The FRC works with communities to reduce levels of dysfunction by focusing on individual responsibility to engage in socially responsible behaviours.

The FRC is constituted by a commissioner, deputy commissioner and currently 19 local commissioners. The local commissioners play a key role in the acceptance and success of the FRC and in restoring local authority in communities. The local commissioners are respected persons within their communities who have demonstrated leadership and conviction to the visions of the FRC. The FRC operates by holding conferences with people who live in the trial communities, receive a welfare payment and who have come to the attention of the FRC through a notification due to: failing to enrol or send a child to school; conviction of an offence in the Magistrates Court; breach of a social housing tenancy agreement or using a premise for an illegal purpose; or a child safety notification.

Conferences involve the person sitting down with the FRC to discuss the matter which led to the notification and coming to an agreement on how to address the situation. This may involve referral to services. If the person does not comply with an order the FRC can order that 60 or 75 per cent of that person's welfare support payment be income managed. Between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2012, the FRC held 1,587 conferences, 67 of which were conducted independently by local commissioners. These conferences then resulted in 35 family responsibility agreements, 205 orders and 465 referrals to community support services.

Currently, the FRC Act, and consequently the FRC, will expire on 1 January 2014. This means the FRC cannot operate and its orders for income management would expire on that date. The challenges facing these communities are great and change will be gradual. However, the trial's independent evaluation, finally released in March 2013 after a lengthy delay, found that welfare reform had made progress. Subtle and fundamental behavioural changes in money management were detected and positive changes are happening around responsibility for children, school attendance, educational attainment and attitudes to work. The evaluation particularly noted the success of FRC local commissioners in the rebuilding of Indigenous authority to tackle antisocial behaviour.

In March 2013 the Newman government approved funding of \$5.65 million to extend the trial for another 12 months to 31 December 2014. As a precursor to extending the trial, my department undertook stakeholder and community consultations in Mossman Gorge, Coen, Hope Vale and Aurukun. The results were positive. All communities have indicated their support for the trial to continue, including the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council which had previously opposed it. The trial was regarded by many as important in improving school attendance.

The local commissioners commented that since Cape York Welfare Reform and the FRC have been in Hope Vale 'there are more facilities, people feel better about themselves, and there are no drunks on the streets anymore'. They report that times have changed, and that the police have played a strong role. A lot of hard work remains to consolidate the trial's gains. The evaluation report noted that genuine economic opportunities need to be available, and further work is needed to remove barriers to homeownership. The 2013 extension saw improved governance arrangements that increase transparency and probity.

My department has made savings, and put in place more rigorous performance and accountability requirements. The Department of Education, Training and Employment has also focused effort on increasing higher school attendance and enrolment. The trial aims to move community residents from social housing to homeownership. Progress has been made in 2013 towards removing barriers to homeownership.

I am also pleased to report that the Newman government is making big inroads in removing barriers around land tenure and town planning. Amendments to the Land Act 1994 means that land

can now be subdivided in Aurukun and Hope Vale. We are also working to maximise employment opportunities. Two promising enterprises are Rio Tinto Alcan's South of Embley Project, which may create up to 1,200 jobs, and the Aurukun bauxite project.

One of the great success stories for 2013 is the Hope Vale banana farm, established in 2012, with support funding from the trial and the Australian government. The farm's first crop, estimated to be worth approximately \$1 million, was recently harvested. The trial will continue to work towards increasing economic development and participation and homeownership in the four communities during 2014.

The key objective of the Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2013 is to amend the provisions relating to the expiry of the act, the FRC and its orders by extending their operation to 1 January 2015. 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 2014.

Appointments of the FRC commissioner, deputy commissioner and local commissioners must also be approved by Governor-in-Council before 1 January 2014 to ensure the FRC is able to function beyond its current expiry date. I look forward to continuing to work with the FRC, the four welfare reform communities and trial partners to improve social and economic outcomes, and to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations and reach their full potential.

First Reading

Hon. GW ELMES (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (2.37 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

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

~~BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Resumed from 16 April (see p. 949).~~

~~Second Reading~~



~~**Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (2.38 pm): I move—~~

~~That the bill be now read a second time.~~

~~In opening, I thank the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee for its prompt consideration of the Building and Other Legislation Bill 2013. In particular, I thank the committee members and chairman, the member for Warrego, for their deliberation and report on the bill. The committee tabled its report on 19 June 2013. I am now pleased to table the government's response to the committee's report.~~

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~~I would also like to thank those who made submissions on the bill to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee. Submissions were received from the Queensland Master Builders Association, the Housing Industry Association Ltd and the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority, trading as Seqwater. I greatly appreciate the time and effort taken to communicate their concerns and suggestions. The committee's report made only one recommendation—that the bill be passed. The government accepts that recommendation.~~

~~The main purpose of the bill is to cut red tape by streamlining the development application process in Queensland to building over or near sewers, water mains and stormwater drains. There is currently no state-wide standard governing building of this type and the approvals process is~~