First Reading

Hon. JH LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (12.11 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 Education and Innovation Committee

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

G20 (SAFETY AND SECURITY) BILL

Introduction

Hon. JM DEMPSEY (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (12.11 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the safety and security of persons attending the Group of Twenty leaders' summit in Brisbane in 2014 and other related meetings and events in Queensland in 2014, to ensure the safety of members of the community and to protect property during the hosting of the summit and other related meetings and to amend the Holidays Act 1983, the Industrial Relations Act 1999, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: G20 (Safety and Security) Amendment Bill 2013.

Tabled paper. G20 (Safety and Security) Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes.

As members of the House are quite aware, Australia is to host the 2014 G20 meeting. From Africa to the Americas, from Europe to Asia, the leaders of 19 countries and the European Union will be guests of Australia in late 2014. It is indisputable that the G20 is the most significant meeting held anywhere in the world. Although there are a number of meetings held under the G20 umbrella, the most important are the leaders' summit and the finance ministers' and central bank governors' meetings. Notably, the Commonwealth government invited Queensland to be the host venue for these meetings. Members will agree that no better choice could have been made.

Not since the 1982 Commonwealth Games will Queensland be so prominent on the world stage. Thousands of members of the international media will descend on Brisbane and Cairns to report the G20 meeting. Hundreds of millions of people around the world will see the attractions this great state has to offer its visitors. This is an unequalled opportunity to put the best Queensland has to offer on display to the world.

The Newman government recognises this potential and has for some time been extensively engaged in planning for this monumental event. As part of the planning process, the government decided that special legislation specific to G20 needs would promote the safety and security of G20 events, G20 delegates and members of the public during the course of the meetings.

Today I introduce that legislation into the House in the form of the G20 (Safety and Security) Bill. The legislation is very well balanced and will have little impact on the community. Members of the public will be at liberty to go about their daily business in a safe and secure environment. Essentially, the legislation establishes three types of security area. Restricted areas, to which entry will only be permitted through accreditation, will all be leased by the Commonwealth government. For example, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre will provide the primary meeting venue for world leaders. As the entire venue will be leased by the Commonwealth, access to it will be restricted to G20 delegates and support personnel.

The second type of security area will be known as a declared area. Members of the public will be provided normal access to a declared area. However, people will not be permitted to possess a prohibited item within the area unless they have a lawful excuse for doing so. By way of example, although a knife will be a prohibited item, diners at restaurants within the declared area will not be affected by this prohibition as they will have a lawful excuse for possessing the knife. Similarly,

residents within the declared area will not be affected by possession of items they would normally have for their daily household functions.

Conversely, the legislation will target a person who, armed with a prohibited item, is intent on doing harm to another or disrupting a G20 event. In such a case there would clearly be an absence of lawful excuse for possession of the item. As members will agree, it would be a very difficult proposition to justify the possession of prohibited items such as paint bombs, shanghais, slingshots, balaclavas, containers of acid or metal throwing spikes known as kubotan within a security area. Those foolish enough to carry weapons of this nature cannot expect tolerance or lenience from the police or the courts.

The third security area will consist of motorcade routes used to move leaders between the airport, their accommodation, meeting venues and functions. Roads used as motorcade routes will only be closed to public use during the period a motorcade is moving along the road. As the motorcade passes, the road will be reopened to normal traffic flow. This will ensure that any inconvenience that might be caused to motorists will be very minimal. As a matter of interest, there will be no restriction on families standing on footpaths along motorcade routes and welcoming the various Presidents, Prime Ministers and leaders as they pass by.

Although the legislation is firm, the government recognises the fundamental and implied constitutional right of freedom of speech. Therefore, no restriction will be imposed on peaceful protest provided it does not involve incursion onto a motorcade route or into a restricted area. There will be no permit regime and police liaison officers will be available to assist those persons or groups who wish to engage in peaceful protest. However, anyone resorting to acts of violence will be removed from a security area and prohibited from returning to it for the duration of the G20 meeting. Additionally, acts of violence will see the perpetrator face criminal charges under Queensland laws. As such, police officers performing duty within a security area will be provided with special powers to aid them in preventing acts of violence or deliberate disruption to G20 events. Also, those persons with a history of encouraging or participating in violent demonstrations or persons with a history of disrupting events may be absolutely prohibited from entering a security area for the duration of the act.

This legislation is about ensuring that Queensland remains the pick of secure venues for major international events, a safe place in which the Queensland community can live, and a priority holiday destination for people from around the world. As I have indicated, this is legislation specifically designed for the G20 meeting. As such it will not continue in existence following that meeting. A sunset clause repeals the law enforcement powers and security areas immediately after the G20 meeting is concluded and leaders have safely departed Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JM DEMPSEY (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (12.18 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 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Hon. DF CRISAFULLI (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (12.18 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Local Government Act 2009, the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2012 and the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for particular purposes, and to make consequential or minor amendments of other legislation as stated in schedule 1 for purposes related to those