

~~people in this House know of a builder or subcontractor who is no longer in the industry because of nonpayment or a dispute between parties?~~

~~In closing, I would like to reiterate that the many industry representations that were made to my office showed the glowing need for the QBSA to be overhauled. I would like to thank the minister, his staff, the chair of the committee and the committee for their work in the development of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Mr Young, adjourned.~~

~~Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm~~

022

~~ETHICS COMMITTEE~~

~~Report~~



~~**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.30 pm): I lay upon the table of the House Ethics Committee report No. 135, > titled *Report on a study investigation by the committee—June 2013*. I commend the report and the committee's recommendations to the House.~~

~~*Tabled paper:* Ethics Committee—Report No. 135, titled 'Report on a study investigation by the committee'.~~

GUIDE, HEARING AND ASSISTANCE DOGS (PLACES OF ACCOMMODATION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Mrs SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (2.31 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009 >to provide for rights and obligations relating to guide, hearing and assistance dogs in places of accommodation. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs (Places of Accommodation) Amendment Bill 2013.

Tabled paper: Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs (Places of Accommodation) Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes.

This bill amends the Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009 to restore rights that had been in the previous 1972 act. When the Guide, Hearing and Assistance Dogs Act 2009 was passed in this House, an oversight meant that places of accommodation were unintentionally left out. This meant that rental accommodation, whether for permanent residential purposes or casual or holiday rental, is not covered by the legislation and guide, hearing or assistance dog users can be refused accommodation. Prior to the last state election, the amendment to correct this oversight was before the House but lapsed when the parliament was prorogued. Vision Australia has made several requests to the current disability services minister, Tracy Davis, who has to date not introduced the amendments and has said the issue will be considered at some unspecific date in the future. It has already been 18 months.

On International Guide Dog Day this year the member for Mulgrave, who was the former disability services minister, issued a media release calling on Minister Davis to reintroduce the amendments that had already been drafted and were ready to be actioned under his watch. Unfortunately, his call has been met with stony silence. The amendments proposed in the bill will build on the safeguards in the current act which allow people with a disability to be accompanied by their guide, hearing or assistance dog in public places and public passenger vehicles. Prior to 2009, these rights were entrenched in law. It is incumbent on government to ensure that people with a disability are not subject to discrimination and denied accommodation. Users of guide, hearing and assistance dogs should not be turned away and forced to seek redress through the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, as has happened. The Leader of the Opposition has been approached by a gentleman who was forced to pursue a complaint through the Anti-Discrimination Commission when he and his guide-dog were refused holiday accommodation. This is a scandalous situation and a person with any empathy would have moved to do anything in their power to ensure this will never happen again to another Queenslander.

The amendments are consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons With a Disability and promote equality of opportunity and access for people with a disability by helping to prevent discrimination and exclusion on the basis of disability. There is an existing obligation under Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Act not to discriminate by refusing to provide accommodation to a

person who has a disability and is accompanied by a guide, hearing or assistance dog. However, the new offence will provide an alternative avenue for redress that is likely to be less complex, expensive and time consuming for a complainant.

First Reading

Mrs SCOTT (Woodridge—ALP) (2.34 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.

~~PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS~~


~~Broadbeach Jazz Festival; Gold Coast, Beaches~~

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.35 pm): It is with great delight that I inform the House of the fabulously successful Broadbeach Jazz Festival which brought over 20,000 visitors to the area last weekend and enhanced Broadbeach's reputation for being the family entertainment capital of Australia's capital for tourism—the glamorous, glitzy and glorious Gold Coast! I congratulate Jan McCormick from Broadbeach Alliance and the Gold Coast City Council for supporting this outstanding community event to turn the weekend into another Gold Coast event spectacular. More importantly, visitors to Broadie would now know that the world famous Gold Coast beaches are back with heaps, stacks and piles of sand for everyone to lay on, sunbake on, kick a footy on, jog on or just walk on to enjoy the magnificent vista and unequalled 42 kilometres of golden sand filled beaches.

Following constant media reporting of the 'beach' part missing from the good electorate of Mermaid Beach, I can confirm following my Sunday morning bike ride from Broadie to Burleigh that the beaches are back to their sparkling best and the Gold Coast is ready to welcome tourists from all over Australia and the world to enjoy the ultimate beach paradise called Gold Coast City. Sure there are some graded banks to negotiate to the beach areas at Mermaid, Miami and Broadie, but the overwhelming conclusion that can only be drawn by personally witnessing thousands and thousands of holiday-makers frolicking on our beaches is that negativity about our Gold Coast beaches is now officially dead and buried and positivity about our No. 1 tourism asset—that is, our beaches—is definitely the only news story in town.

023 We have enjoyed a real boost in national tourism figures on the Gold Coast and now, with a weakening Australian dollar, it is to be hoped the international tourists will join the increasing flock of tourists heading to the Gold Coast beaches that are, as we know, famous for fun. The Gold Coast City Council and Mayor Tate are getting on with the job of replenishing the sand on the beaches, aided and abetted by the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, a state government funded organisation. We all love and are proud of our Gold Coast City beaches and our respective responsibilities in ensuring the beaches are maintained in pristine condition and that every tourist throughout the world is given the opportunity to enjoy our wonderful beach experience is central to good government for our community. As the member for Mermaid Beach I feel absolutely blessed to represent one of the most iconic destinations in the world and at every stage I will protect, enhance and defend its reputation without fear or influence or even succumbing to outside pressures.

Queensland Plan

 **Mr COX** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.38 pm): We have all been working hard in the last few months to promote the Queensland Plan within our electorates and encourage Queenslanders to have their say about our future. Last week I held a forum on the subject for members and staff of the Spinal Injuries Association. The group is a peak body providing a range of services for members who have suffered a spinal cord injury or those with the late effects of polio. Members of the Spinal Injuries Association are empowered within their homes, workplaces and in the community to live fulfilling