

~~with the Local Government Association of Queensland on the application of the indexation mechanism to the laws made by local governments. I commend the bill to the House.~~

~~First Reading~~

~~**Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney General and Minister for Justice) (12.14 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 order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.~~

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. JJ McVEIGH (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.15 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Agricultural College Act 2005 to rename the Australian Agricultural College Corporation and to establish a new governing board for the corporation, and to make consequential or minor amendments to the legislation stated in schedule 1 for related purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Agricultural College Amendment Bill 2013.

Tabled paper: Agricultural College Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes.

I am very pleased to introduce the Agricultural College Amendment Bill 2013. This bill provides for amendments to the Agricultural College Act 2005 to establish a new governing board for the Australian Agricultural College Corporation and also to rename the corporation. This bill makes significant amendments to the corporate structure of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation. Reform of the corporation is essential if it is to continue to be a provider of vocational education and training to regional Queensland into the future.

The corporation provides training and education services to agricultural and pastoral industries through industry vocational training at six regional centres and educational training through its residential colleges at Emerald and Longreach. The vocational training component of the corporation accounts for approximately 73 per cent of training, and even though it is currently profitable, it will not be sustainable in the long term due to the delivery costs of training under the current structure. The residential colleges have consistently and unfortunately operated at a loss.

Ernst & Young was commissioned in 2012 to undertake a thorough review of the college corporation. I tabled a summary of their review findings in August 2012.

Ernst & Young found areas of financial and management deficiencies that were systemically contributing to the college's serious operational losses. Overall it was found that service delivery of the college was not meeting the requirements of industry or students. This bill demonstrates the government's commitment to ensuring that the high quality agricultural training and vocational education required is available in Queensland to develop our skilled agricultural workers of the future. This bill restructures the corporation from a corporation sole to a statutory body so that a more effective management and decision-making structure is in place. The implementation of a statutory body will improve the financial sustainability of the corporation through the adoption of performance management, financial reporting and strategic business planning. To reflect the new structure, the corporation will also be renamed the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges.

Of critical importance is the replacement of the current advisory board arrangements under the act with a governing board for the statutory body. This governing board will have direct responsibility for the financial and administrative management of the statutory body. Most importantly, the new board will ensure a greater alignment of college services with the needs of students and our regional

industries. The bill introduces requirements for the board to develop and implement strategic and operational business plans for the entire organisation. The residential colleges—Emerald Agricultural College and Longreach Pastoral College—are being restructured so that they become more viable. It is imperative that these colleges have the ability to realign their services to the requirements of their students and to the agricultural and pastoral sectors that they serve.

The legislation will also formalise the local college board arrangements I put in place earlier this year at Emerald and Longreach. These boards will have a critical role in assisting the corporation to identify and address the training needs of those industry sectors. They will also be tasked with improving the decision making and performance of each residential college with the oversight, of course, of the governing board. The college directors appointed this year will also have formalised roles under the act to manage the day-to-day activities of their college.

Skilling the future generations of rural and regional Queensland is an essential component of the government's commitment to agriculture as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy and, of course, for our plan to double food production by 2040. The passage of this bill in early 2014 is therefore essential if our agricultural colleges are to have the management and financial standing to be part of the vocational education and training sector into the future.

I place on record my appreciation to the member for Gregory for his guidance both now and into the future, no doubt, for those two residential colleges in particular. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JJ McVEIGH (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.20 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 Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

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

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~~BIOSECURITY BILL~~

~~Message from Governor~~

~~**Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.20 pm): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.~~

~~The Deputy Speaker read the following message—~~

~~MESSAGE~~

~~BIOSECURITY 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 provide for a comprehensive biosecurity framework to manage the impacts of animal and plant diseases and pests in a timely and effective way and ensure the safety and quality of animal feed, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs, to repeal the Agricultural Standards Act 1994, the Apiaries Act 1982, the Diseases in Timber Act 1975, the Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981, the Plant Protection Act 1989 and the Stock Act 1915, to amend the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Fisheries Act 1994 and the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Rout Management) Act 2002, and to make minor and consequential amendments of the Acts mentioned in schedule 4.~~

~~(Sgd)~~

~~GOVERNOR~~

~~Date: 19 NOV 2013~~