

~~Secondly, it amends the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to improve operations for distributor-retailers by removing the requirement to publish draft prices outside their usual budget cycle and by allowing each council to have a councillor on a distributor-retailer's board. The bill also amends the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to provide a streamlined water and sewerage connection approval process for South-East Queensland distributor-retailers referred to as the utility model.~~

~~It merges two current approvals under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and creates a single approval for connecting premises to water and sewerage services. Distributor-retailers will directly consider and approve water and sewerage connection applications resulting in a quicker, simplified and cost-effective approval mechanism for customers of distributor-retailers.~~

~~Water and sewerage connection approvals have been customised for all scales of development from a new house to a large scale subdivision. The bill allows for the swift approval of standard connection applications for developments such as new houses to be determined within five business days. It also allows for non-standard connections for more complicated connections and for staged water connection approvals for large staged developments. Accredited third parties can deal with aspects of the more complicated applications, such as certification of infrastructure works, resulting in a reduction in design times and holding times for developers, as well as time consuming delays. This simplified approval process aligns with the government's planning reforms and supports infrastructure and economic development within South-East Queensland.~~

~~Finally, the bill repeals the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act 1909 which has been superseded by more contemporary legislation and is now redundant. This act established and governed the operations of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board until it was disestablished in 1928 and the board's powers were assigned to Brisbane City Council.~~

~~As a package, these measures address industry calls for regulatory simplification while driving improvement and flexibility. The proposals support the goals in the draft Queensland Plan to improve planning and infrastructure management and to shift the focus of governance from process to outcomes.~~

~~The bill also supports the Queensland government's commitment to cut red tape and regulation by 20 per cent and the reforms will deliver cost savings to the water industry. The Department of Energy and Water Supply is coordinating the development of a 30-year water strategy which will further address the regulatory environment and organisational challenges facing Queensland's water sector. Through addressing industry calls for regulatory simplification while driving improvement and flexibility, the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 represents a real step forward and is a basis for further reform under the 30 year strategy. I commend the bill to the House.~~

First Reading

~~**Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (12.36 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.~~

CHICKEN MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.36 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Act 1976 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

I am very pleased to introduce the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014. The bill provides for the repeal of the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Act 1976 in order to reduce regulatory burden and red tape on the chicken meat industry. To give proper effect to the act's repeal, the act will be amended to cater for the transitional matters required for the dissolution of the Chicken Meat Industry Committee, which is established under the act. Once the transitional matters have been satisfied, the act will be repealed in its entirety.

The main objective of the act is to provide for the stabilisation of the chicken meat industry in Queensland. This is achieved through its framework for collective bargaining negotiations between chicken meat growers and chicken meat processors. The act provides specific authorisation for collective negotiations, without which such activities could be considered to be illegal under the Commonwealth's Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

The Queensland Chicken Growers Association, in conjunction with the major chicken meat processors Inghams Enterprises, Golden Cockerel and Baiada Poultry, has obtained an authorisation from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to collectively negotiate agreements. This will be done directly under the Commonwealth legislation. The authorisation effectively replaces the framework under the Queensland legislation and renders it redundant.

Under the current Queensland legislative framework, chicken meat growers and processors can choose to become part of the collective negotiations or choose to independently negotiate arrangements. Growers and processors will continue to have this choice under the new non-regulatory arrangements.

020 The Chicken Meat Industry Committee's primary functions are: to facilitate negotiations of agreements between chicken growers and processors; to facilitate mediation and arbitration of disputes; to represent growers and processors; and to provide information on and about issues affecting the industry. These functions have either been replaced by the ACCC authorisation or can be undertaken through other means.

I commend the chicken meat industry for deciding to step outside of the state legislative framework and take full responsibility for its own future. This is a sign of the maturity of the industry. In 1976 commercial disputes between chicken meat growers and processors were the norm and industry regularly sought government intervention. Now there are few commercial disputes and the current commercial environment is such that government intervention is no longer required.

The bill gives effect to the committee's dissolution by transferring all of its assets and liabilities to a non-statutory body as decided by the committee. The bill also provides for the appropriate referral of any dispute that arose before the transfer day to an arbitrator. On the day of transfer the committee will cease to exist and the legislation will be automatically repealed in its entirety.

Lastly, the bill will also bring Queensland in line with the national trend of moving away from the use of state based legislative collective negotiations for chicken meat growers and towards the authorisation of collective negotiation arrangements by the ACCC. In South Australia chicken meat industry stabilisation legislation has been repealed and in Western Australia it has expired. In Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia the chicken meat industry uses the ACCC authorisation process for their collective negotiations arrangements.

I wish to acknowledge the processor and grower members of the committee for their commitment to their industry and their courage to seek alternative arrangements that mean the legislation is no longer required. I wish to acknowledge long-serving committee member Mr Gary Sansom. Mr Sansom has been a member of the committee since 1986 and is well known to members on both sides of the House through his former role as President of the Queensland Farmers Federation. But it should not be forgotten that Gary and his wife are chicken farmers, and their commitment to agriculture in Queensland took root through their involvement in the chicken meat industry.

I also wish to acknowledge the chairperson of the committee, Ms Rowena McNally, for her professional and facilitative approach to the role. Ms McNally has been the chairperson since May 2003, and the success of the committee during her tenure as chair is largely due to her skills and efforts. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JJ McVEIGH (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.42 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.

~~POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Resumed from 12 September 2013 (see p. 3055).~~

~~Second Reading~~

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (12.43 pm): I move—

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

~~The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has examined the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 and tabled its report on 11 November 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for its consideration of the bill and for the excellent work the committee does. In its report the committee made four recommendations. The government has considered these recommendations and the government's response to the committee report, which was tabled out of session on 28 November 2013. The government supports recommendations 1, 3 and 4 of the committee. The government does not support the remaining recommendation.~~

~~I will now address each recommendation in turn. Firstly, the committee recommended the bill be passed, and I thank the committee for their support for this important bill. Secondly, the committee recommended that consideration be given to including the further list of examples suggested by the Queensland Law Society in section 53BH(3) of the bill to improve how the 'reasonable steps' defence is intended to operate. The government considers that providing further examples will not significantly advance any understanding of how the 'reasonable steps' defence will operate. The government is satisfied that the judiciary can determine, through considering the individual merits of each case, whether a person has taken reasonable steps to prevent an event from becoming out of control. It is the government's view that providing further examples of what are or are not 'reasonable steps' will not be of additional assistance in this regard.~~

~~The committee's third recommendation was that a review be conducted of the operation and use of the new part 7 'Out of control events' to report to parliament within two years of commencement. A review of the operation and use of the new part 7 will be undertaken as part of the regular review of the operation of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.~~

~~The fourth recommendation of the committee was that clause 39 be omitted from the bill. The government supports this recommendation. Clause 39 concerned amendments to section 754 'Offence for driver of motor vehicle to fail to stop motor vehicle' of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The amendment sought to clarify that the only alternative minimum penalty that a court can impose, instead of the 50 penalty units fine, is 50 days imprisonment to be served wholly in a corrective services facility.~~

~~Amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 included in the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Act 2013 implemented amendments to the effect of the amendment proposed by clause 39 of the bill. As a consequence, clause 39 of the bill is no longer required.~~

~~I will indicate at this time that I will be moving amendments during the consideration in detail stage of the bill. These amendments have been circulated in my name and accompanied by explanatory notes. In addition to an amendment removing clause 39 of the bill, I will also be moving~~