

~~finalising our formal response to the remainder of the issues that were considered by the roundtable review.~~

~~Construction is a key pillar of our plan to get the state's finances back on track and turbocharge the Queensland economy. The changes I have outlined in this bill will restore balance to the system and foster safety, fairness and productivity in Queensland's workplaces. How are we going to do that? The answer is simply this. Unions will no longer have the right to enter a workplace and use work health and safety as an industrial dispute weapon in this state. They will now have to give 24 hours notice to be able to enter work sites in Queensland. That is good for business and good for the workers in Queensland. Hopefully, we will rid this state of union militant bullying activities.~~

First Reading

~~Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.37 am): 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 Finance and Administration Committee

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.~~

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

~~Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice), (11.37 am), by leave, without notice: I move—~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Finance and Administration Committee report to the House on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 25 March 2014.~~

~~Question put—That the motion be agreed to.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS BILL

Message from Governor

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (11.38 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

The Deputy Speaker read the following message—

MESSAGE

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFSETS BILL 2014

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 environmental offsets to counterbalance significant residual impacts of particular activities on particular matters of national, State or local environmental significance and to establish a framework in relation to environmental offsets, and to amend the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary Act 1976, the Duties Act 2001, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Fisheries Act 1994, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the National Trust of Queensland Act 1963, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for particular purposes and to make minor and consequential amendments of the Act mentioned in schedule 1

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 13 FEB 2014

Tabled paper: Message, dated 13 February 2014, from Her Excellency the Governor, recommending the Environmental Offsets Bill 2014.

Introduction



Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (11.40 am): Mr Deputy Speaker, I present a bill for an act to provide for environmental offsets to counterbalance significant residual impacts of particular activities on particular matters of national, state or local environmental significance and establish a framework in relation to environmental offsets and to amend the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary Act 1976, the Duties Act 2001, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Fisheries Act 1994, the Marine Parks Act 2004, the National Trust of Queensland Act 1963, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for particular purposes and to make minor and consequential amendments of the act mentioned in schedule 1. I table the Bill and Explanatory Notes, and I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the Bill.

Tabled paper: Environmental Offsets Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Environmental Offsets Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

Offsets are a component of the state government's assessment process that allows development to proceed. They compensate for unavoidable impacts on significant environmental values by making sure that an equivalent environmental outcome occurs elsewhere. Since they were introduced in the early 1980's, a growing number of specific issue offset policies have been developed. Over time this has led to an inconsistent, complex and onerous regulatory framework with little coordination.

The Newman government is seeking to address this by introducing a new foundation for the state's environmental offsets framework. The Environmental Offsets Bill sets out what an offset is and how it is to be provided. It supports assessment provisions in existing legislation which govern if and when an offset is required as a condition of an approval. Under the former government there were five separate offset policies. This is typical of Labor: they are all about quantity but not about quality. By combining five separate policies into one piece of legislation not only is the Newman government cutting green tape, but we are removing complexity and inconsistency. However, this will not come at a cost to the environment; instead, the new framework will also achieve greater strategic environmental outcomes for Queensland.

Introducing primary legislation that provides a 'head of power' to impose environmental offset conditions demonstrates the Newman government's commitment to protect Queensland's environment while allowing balanced economic growth to support our state's future. The bill supports the government's commitment to growing a four-pillar economy because it provides a single point of truth for proponents. It will end uncertainty and deliver a simpler, more timely and affordable solution for offsets under an integrated regulatory framework.

The environmental impacts of a particular development can currently be assessed multiple times by separate levels of government, each imposing substantially different offset requirements. This inconsistency has led to significant delays and additional cost to industry and is a major roadblock to development. The bill removes the potential for 'double counting' offset requirements across the three levels of government; reduces the number of matters subject to offsets; aligns with the Commonwealth approach of requiring offsets only for significant and unavoidable impacts on a matter of environmental significance; and provides greater flexibility in offset delivery options than the current offset policies. In providing this simpler framework, the government aims to reinstate industry confidence and reduce the unnecessary delays associated with uncertainty.

The Newman government is committed to being Australia's best-practice environmental regulator, and this innovative approach to environmental offsets will demonstrate this. The legislation also gives proponents the option to stage offsets in accordance with on-the-ground impacts and allows a financial settlement determined in accordance with a scientifically based offset calculator or a proponent-driven offset that replaces the impacted environmental matter. This simplified and scientifically-based approach to determining an offset obligation and flexibility in offset delivery options will provide greater certainty. This is a clear improvement on current policy approaches, where offsets can take years to find.

For the first time ever the state government will be able to take a big picture approach to the future protection of Queensland's environment. Through strategic investment corridors and direct benefit management plans, Queensland will no longer have a patchwork quilt of areas set aside; instead, the government can direct offsets to locations that will deliver the greatest environmental outcome. By working with industry and not against them, we will achieve greater environmental

benefits than the current ad-hoc and piecemeal outcome. This will also provide opportunities for landholders to receive income in return for voluntarily agreeing to manage their land, or part of their land, as an offset under a legally-binding agreement.

In addition, the bill amends legislation for other matters. The Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 will be amended to address specific unintended operational problems with the application of these acts. Amendment to the Coastal Protection and Management Act is necessary following a recent court decision associated with the Gold Coast Light Rail project. This decision highlighted an error in legislation that brought into doubt the validity of previous tidal works approvals made under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the repealed Integrated Planning Act 1997. The proposed amendments will validate these decisions. These amendments will clarify when operational works within a coastal management district, including within a tidal watercourse, are tidal works under the Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995 and referred to by the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and repealed Integrated Planning Act 1997.

Amendments are also required to address a separate matter in relation to dredge management plans. The amendments provide clarification to transitional provisions for dredge management plans made in 2011 to ensure that royalties remain payable for the commercial removal of material under such plans.

The National Trust of Queensland Act 1963, Currumbin Bird Sanctuary Act 1963, Queensland Heritage Act 1992, and the Duties Act 2001 will be amended to allow Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and the National Trust of Qld to relinquish their statutory status and transition to a single company, independent of government. This reflects the approach taken in other jurisdictions and is consistent with government's commitment to reducing red tape and regulation for business. The Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary—the largest and most visited property belonging to the National Trust—will continue as a not-for profit organisation, reinvesting revenue back into conservation-based research, public education and caring for injured wildlife through the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. The National Trust is keen to undertake these reforms which provide greater autonomy and improved opportunities to seek corporate sponsorship and support for its heritage and conservation activities.

The Environmental Offset Bill is the product of a whole-of-government review, and there has been significant and ongoing engagement with industry, government, natural resource management and conservation sectors in development of the offsets framework. This engagement occurred from July 2012 through to January 2014 and included robust testing of the framework and calculator on actual projects to ensure that the cost savings and simplification objectives of the review are real and tangible outcomes.

I thank those who have been involved in the development of this important environmental reform. Your involvement has ensured that we have developed a fair and simplified offset framework that helps build Queensland's four-pillar economy whilst retaining a focus on environmental protection.

First Reading

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (11.48 am): 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

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

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (11.49 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee report to the House on the Environmental Offsets Bill by 28 April 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

~~EDUCATION (QUEENSLAND CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY)~~ **~~BILL~~**

~~Second Reading~~

~~Resumed from 12 February (see p. 162), on motion of Mr Langbrook—~~

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



~~**Mr PUCCI** (Logan LNP) (11.50 am): I rise today in support of the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Bill 2013. As our state continues to grow, we will see Queensland, both domestically and internationally, situated at the forefront of an unprecedented and exciting period in our nation's history. In conjunction with our government's proactive initiative to engage our regional partners through trade and investment opportunities, the need for Queenslanders to remain intellectually competitive is important to our state's growth and to the opportunities that lie before us. To achieve our full potential it is imperative that each industry throughout Queensland develops a legislative framework that enables growth rather than stand as a bureaucratic blockade. This is why this can do government is committed to engineering a culture of moving towards red-tape reduction and empowerment for Queensland organisations and businesses.~~

~~The need for red-tape reduction was identified as one of the key outcomes of the ongoing round table discussions with principals that were conducted throughout the state including in Logan. Principals from schools within my electorate of Logan echo the same sentiments of their colleagues across the state when they voice their frustration about being restricted to their offices under a mountain of bureaucracy. This bill will seek to continue the historical achievements accomplished by our government in making Queensland the premier state in the field of academic achievement. The Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Bill 2013 will make further inroads into clearing the stranglehold on red-tape whilst improving the delivery of services and skills to the next generation of Queenslanders.~~

~~Logan is one of many communities across Queensland that has directly benefited from investment in services, infrastructure and support spurred on by the Newman government. Logan schools have shared \$2 million as part of our government's efforts to clear the backlog in maintenance that accumulated over 20 years of neglect by the former Labor government. Logan schools will also share in \$1.4 million that has been allocated to Logan as part of the government's exciting Great Results Guarantee, which will boost student outcomes in Queensland state schools by focusing on the early years. That is nearly \$3½ million that Logan schools shared. Our focus on the early years of children's education will also benefit from the addition of further prep teacher aide hours being allocated to Yugumbir State School and Park Ridge State School that rolled out with the commencement of the 2014 scholastic year.~~

~~School safety is also a prominent feature in our government's push for better local schools. Safety for our students will continue to improve for Logan schools with the recent addition of flashing lights at Logan Village State School and another installation scheduled for Yugumbir State School in the near future. These installations, combined with \$80,000 allocated towards Logan Reserve State School under the safe school travel program, will continue to create a safe environment for parents and students during peak travel times. I encourage all schools who have not already taken advantage of this great initiative to apply for funding. Our government is wholeheartedly committed to ensuring the safety of our students at all times. As our community continues to grow, so does the impact imposed on school infrastructure. Recognising this, I welcome the allocation of over \$400,000 in capital funding to two schools situated in the critical growth areas. This funding will see building upgrades, relieving the pressure felt by staff and students.~~

~~After having achieved so much in just two years under the LNP government, Logan schools are set to have a bright future as our government continues to listen to the needs of the community and put the future of our children first. The objective of this bill will establish the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority as the new statutory body responsible for syllabus development, supporting the implementation of new syllabuses and the Australian curriculum, testing, moderation,~~