

~~corporation, which I released in 2010. The Reconnecting Agricultural Education plan was designed to address the parlous state of the agricultural colleges and improve their service delivery.~~

~~As part of these measures, the residential college at Dalby was transferred to the department of education and refurbished to become a second campus for Dalby State High School. The AACC continued to provide training through the rebadged Dalby Training Centre. We also headquartered the Agricultural College Corporation at the Gatton University of Queensland campus. We expanded the footprint of the organisation to have a presence in Mackay, Ayr, Cunnamulla and Bundaberg. We also planned to reinvest \$3 million in a new Darling Downs Cropping Research and Training Centre to provide training in broadscale crop production, machinery operation and undertake major field crop research. This was all part of the substantial \$20 million restructuring plan to which the then department of employment, economic development and innovation was to contribute \$3 million and the AACC was to raise \$17 million through the sale of outdated facilities and unnecessary properties.~~

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

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

022

<CRIMINAL CODE (LOOTING IN DECLARED AREAS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—UAP) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code for a particular purpose. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Looting in Declared Areas) Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Looting in Declared Areas) Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

<The primary objective of the bill is to amend the Criminal Code at section 398—punishment of >stealing. Specifically, under section 398, as relevant to punishment in special cases, it is proposed to amend section 398(13) to insert new provisions that underpin the Disaster Management Act 2003.

The bill contains proposed amendments to the Criminal Code that are aligned with the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's response to the Criminal Code (Looting in Declared Areas) Amendment Bill 2013 and related recommendations. It is highlighted that the committee considered that looting in a declared disaster area would be an aggravating circumstance, given individuals have no choice but to leave their home when a declaration is made under the Disaster Management Act. Furthermore, it was agreed that those entering a declared area to commit the crime of looting do so expressly against an order prohibiting people from entering the declared disaster area. Accordingly, the committee considered there could be a benefit to link offences to a declared disaster area in these circumstances.

I refer members to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report No. 40 in relation to the Criminal Code (Looting in Declared Areas) Amendment Bill 2013. In response to the committee's report, the Newman government accepted that there was merit in the proposed amendments. The government's response indicated support for progressing an amendment to the existing offence of stealing by looting under section 398 of the Criminal Code to include a reference to a declaration made under the Disaster Management Act 2003.

These proposed laws are also aligned with community expectations and will positively contribute to protecting Queenslanders. Looting is a serious crime, and declared disaster areas need to be underpinned by relevant laws. Many Queenslanders have suffered severe flooding and cyclone disasters in recent times. Communities like Bundaberg and Gympie are still recovering from devastating disasters, and in 2011 my electorate of Yeerongpilly suffered serious flooding, as have many other communities throughout our state like my home town of Rockhampton in Central Queensland. The township of Halifax, near Ingham in North Queensland, flooded multiple times when I served there as a police officer between late 1990 and early 2000. I still have an affection and sense of responsibility to protect the good people living there and all other Queenslanders. That is why I have introduced this bill. I encourage all members to put politics aside and support it to help protect Queenslanders. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I was elected to represent my community and more broadly serve the people of Queensland, many of whom have been impacted by flooding and other disaster situations.

During the 2013 floods which heavily impacted Bundaberg and the surrounding area as mentioned the current Queensland Police Commissioner, Mr Ian Stewart, told media that 'sadly' there had again been instances of looting not only in Bundaberg but also in Gympie. Such crimes are committed by opportunistic and callous criminals in our communities including the Police Minister's own community of Bundaberg. These offenders must face laws that enable our courts to administer punishments to fit their crimes. This Bill proposes improvements to our existing laws applying a smart-on-crime approach to protect communities throughout Queensland. >

First Reading

Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—UAP) (2.33 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

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

~~PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS~~

~~<Currumbin Estuary~~



~~**Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.34 pm): As the member for Currumbin for the past decade and >long resident for 27 years, I am acutely aware of our community's desire to protect our natural assets which include our magnificent beaches and picturesque Currumbin estuary. I have spoken of this publicly and in the parliament on numerous occasions and am a strong advocate of thorough community consultation and engagement. Whilst we are blessed to have this beautiful waterway in our backyards that is a hive of activity with a multitude of users enjoying it, especially in the warmer months, it presents a number of challenges that require constant assessment and careful consideration to ensure the safety of all users.~~

~~In 2012 the Newman government was elected with a promise to establish the Gold Coast Waterways Authority to provide guidance and advice on waterways safety and usage. This is being delivered under the very capable leadership and direction of CEO Hal Morris and chairman of the board Gary Baildon. Since the formation of this authority, I have convened a number of meetings and maintained regular communication with stakeholders regarding the management of the estuary which saw the creation of an ongoing Currumbin estuary safety awareness campaign focusing on education, camera coverage, clear signage and community collaboration.~~

~~The Newman government recognises the importance of Currumbin Alley as a popular surfing break, and the Premier and Minister Emerson have made it clear they will not create a wider navigational channel past the groyne or a new sand bypass system. I welcome this decision and support the council's existing dredging program inside the creek mouth for flood mitigation purposes. That is why I was instrumental in setting up a committee including local stakeholders to have a say in the location of the dredge area and where the sand was deposited. The government's decisive response to this issue demonstrates that we recognise the importance of our beaches and will take the necessary steps to ensure they are not adversely impacted and remain open for all to enjoy.~~

~~A proposal to develop a cruise ship terminal at Kirra was met with a wave of anger by thousands who attended a protest paddle-out on Sunday, 19 January. Addressing the crowd before the paddle-out, I read out a statement from the Premier, and I quote—~~

~~While we always welcome new ideas about how to grow the state, we will simply never entertain the idea of a cruise ship terminal at Kirra Beach. Our beaches are just too important not just as a natural wonder or as a place for families and surfers but also for the central role they play in Gold Coast tourism.~~

~~I could not have put it better myself, but I would add: our lifestyle and community pride are something we cherish in the electorate of Currumbin.~~

~~On another note, it has been brought to my attention that in the police powers bill I inadvertently gave an incorrect statement, and I wish to place on record my apologies to the House. >~~