

acknowledge my husband and his contribution to society with the great work he does as a serving police officer. I acknowledge all of the serving police officers in Queensland. I believe that the job of a police officer is far more difficult than the hardest day of a member of parliament. I thank the police and their families for the service they give to our communities. To my beautiful children, Emma and Cameron, our lives have certainly changed over the years with my time in federal parliament and we now start a new chapter in our lives. As any of us who have ever served in public life know, it is our families who make the biggest sacrifice when we choose to serve the people. There are many times that my children have missed out on having their mum attend a special event, or not had their mum around when they needed me. And, of course, as our children get older they are more aware and alert to the things that are said in the media in the thrust of a campaign. We must all remember that it is not just the candidates but the families behind them who must deal with the emotions of politics. I hope my children learn from what I do and why I do it. It is important to me that my children grow up understanding that there is a difference between a politician and a parliamentarian. The former is there for their own gratification, the latter is there to serve the people. I hope we all strive to be great parliamentarians. To Emma and Cameron, thank you for your love and support.

I thank the leader of the parliamentary Labor party, Anastacia Palaszcuk, for her leadership and her personal support during the Redcliffe by-election campaign and the interest she has shown in the Redcliffe community over the past two years. Thank you to all the opposition caucus members for their support in my campaign. To the ALP state secretary, Anthony Chisholm, and to the party office staff, thank you for your support and guidance. I thank those who have worked most closely with me on the Redcliffe by-election campaign. I pay tribute to Laura Gowdie. Laura has been campaigning by my side since 2006. Laura has been someone I can confide in and trust and, like me, she has the community and Labor values at heart. To Ryan, Karl, Daniel and the two Jennys, thank you for your tremendous efforts in the campaign office and beyond; you kept me sane over the past three months with your humour and energy.

A special thank you goes to the ALP branch members and my local branch members in Redcliffe who have always supported me and who worked tirelessly during the Redcliffe by-election. To the many volunteers who walked in off the street, who contacted my office and volunteered their time to assist in the campaign I say thank you. To the unions who came out and supported the campaign I say thank you. The fact that unions are willing to advocate on behalf of their members to give workers in my community and in the state a voice and to fight the attacks by this LNP government on their rights and conditions should be applauded. To the essential service workers who came and campaigned I say a huge thank you. To the firefighters, doctors, nurses, teachers and cleaners who were willing to stand up and be heard, I wish to express my deep gratitude to you all. It is unfortunate that the LNP government would rather criticise you when instead they should be thanking you for the important work that you do in our society. The Premier should be asking himself what would motivate these professionals to want to so publicly stand up against his government. The answer would be that the decisions made by the LNP government are having such a significant impact on their livelihoods and their ability to serve the community that they will not remain silent any longer. These workers are standing up because they have had enough of a government that does not listen. I thank the Not for Sale campaigners who are willing to shine a light on the government's agenda for asset sales.

I finish by once again thanking the Redcliffe community for putting their faith in me and entrusting me with the important role of being their strong voice in the community and in the Queensland parliament. I promise to work with them and work for them as the elected representative for Redcliffe.

## PUBLIC SAFETY BUSINESS AGENCY BILL

### Message from Governor



**Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (11.25 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

The Speaker read the following message—

MESSAGE

PUBLIC SAFETY BUSINESS AGENCY 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 establish the Public Safety Business Agency and for related purposes, to amend this Act, the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Evidence Act 1977, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Police Service Administration Regulation 1990, the Prostitution Act 1999 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes and to make consequential and minor amendments of other legislation as stated in schedule 1 for purposes related to those particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 6 MAR 2014

*Tabled paper.* Message, dated 6 March 2014, recommending the Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014.

## Introduction

**Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (11.27 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Public Safety Business Agency and for related purposes, to amend this act, the Disaster Management Act 2003, the Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Evidence Act 1977, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Police Service Administration Regulation 1990, the Prostitution Act 1999 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes and to make consequential and minor amendments of other legislation as stated in schedule 1 for purposes related to those particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper.* Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014.

*Tabled paper.* Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

I introduce the Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014. This bill demonstrates the government's commitment to stronger, more efficient and effective emergency services for all Queenslanders. In January 2013 this government commissioned former Australian Federal Police Commissioner, Mick Keelty, to undertake a comprehensive review into the Police and Community Safety portfolio. The review examined the two departments then within my portfolio, namely, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Community Safety which comprised the Queensland Ambulance Service, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, Queensland Corrective Services and Emergency Management Queensland.

013 On 10 September 2013, the review concluded in the release of its report titled *Sustaining the unsustainable*. The report made 127 recommendations, 77 findings and 402 observations. This government believes that adopting recommendations from the report will ensure a more cohesive approach to emergency and disaster management across this great state. Adopting these recommendations will also allow portfolio priorities to be better aligned and, therefore, lead to improved operational and corporate efficiencies. The objective of this bill is to make the appropriate legislative amendments necessary to bring these key recommendations to life.

As recommended by the review, the bill brings together Emergency Management Queensland and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service to form a new department called the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. The bill also addresses the recommendation to move provisions in the Disaster Management Act 2003 relating to the state emergency service and the emergency services units into the new Fire and Emergency Services Act 2014. The bill creates the new position of Inspector-General of Emergency Management. The inspector-general will ensure disaster responses in Queensland are better coordinated by regularly reviewing, assessing and reporting to government with respect to the preparation for and the management of disasters.

The bill also facilitates the implementation of a key review recommendation to establish a new portfolio business agency called the Public Safety Business Agency. The Public Safety Business Agency, which commenced notional operations on 1 November 2013, is headed by a chief executive officer. The Public Safety Business Agency is responsible for providing corporate services to the Queensland Police Service, the new Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the newly established office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management. The nature of the corporate services that the Public Safety Business Agency will provide include such things as managing supporting infrastructure; fleet and information and communication technology assets; the provision of human resource, financial management, legal policy and media services; and strategic policy and planning functions. The Public Safety Business Agency will also have a role to play in managing other government services. In November 2013, responsibility for managing Queensland government air

services was transferred to the agency. On 1 January this year, the agency became responsible for administering the state government protective security services, which provide security services to state government buildings.

Importantly, however, the bill and the establishment of the Public Safety Business Agency provide significant opportunities to drive efficiencies and focus on the delivery of core services in the Queensland community. The bill supports the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to focus on operational responsibilities and allows operational personnel to concentrate on front-line services. Ultimately, the bill will see a more cohesive approach to emergency and disaster management responses across this great state and will provide Queensland with the opportunity to continue to strive towards achieving best practice in important areas. The government is committed to revitalising front-line services and this bill will help us deliver on that commitment.

### First Reading

**Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (11.33 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 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.

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (11.33 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Public Safety Business Agency Bill by 29 April 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## ~~BIOSECURITY BILL~~

### ~~Second reading~~

~~Resumed from 5 March (see p. 452), on motion of Mr McVeigh~~

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

 ~~**Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (11.34 am): I rise to speak to the Biosecurity Bill. I take this opportunity to put on the record my thanks to Biosecurity Queensland staff. Biosecurity issues have the potential to have incredibly negative impacts on all primary production in Queensland, whether it is animal husbandry or agriculture. Therefore, it is important that we have a robust biosecurity process and protocols. I commend the minister for the changes that he is bringing in in relation to those matters. One of our greatest attributes and safe guards, which in trade terms are often used as a liability, is that we are an island continent. We have a huge buffer around us that gives us security against disease. However, with the globalisation of industry, more and more it is becoming a responsibility to provide protection from disease-laden products, including animals and other products.~~

~~In Gladstone, we have had several incidents in relation to fire ant incursions. The latest one was reacted to very promptly. I have to commend the minister's staff for the work that they did. Kim Wolfenden headed the Biosecurity team that came to Gladstone. She did an amazing job of informing not only my office but also anyone who would listen about what the fire ants are like. She had a little ant nest, which was incredibly interesting, but I reckon it was a pill to carry around. It showed what fire ants look like. They are much smaller than I expected. The pictures make them look like green ants,~~