

~~years, on the bigger holdings in the west where the rabbit netting fences were, they added six-foot posts inside the fences and put marsupial netting across the top to stop the dogs. Today in western Queensland many graziers and pastoralists are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars of their own money to keep those predators out and keep the sheep industry viable. Regional Queensland is on its knees through drought, low stock numbers, high freight costs and low coal prices. Some 12,000 jobs have gone out of the coal industry in the Bowen Basin and the Callide Basin areas. That has a huge impact on the towns in the region.~~

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~~Whether it is the coal industry in Queensland or the agricultural industry in Queensland we are price takers not price makers. We have to look after our own and start at home. I believe that charity starts at the home. Barnaby Joyce, the federal Minister for Agriculture, John McVeigh, our Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and our colleague the member Warrego, Howard Hobbs—who is a wool and cattle producer and has spent tens of thousands of dollars of his own money fencing his own property at Tambo—will visit Charleville on Thursday this week.~~

~~I want to bring to the attention of people in this House that rural towns are doing it damn tough. Small business is on its knees. The cost of production has gone through the roof. The only person who has a job in most of these places is the person with a government job. This is a critical situation. This is the worst we have witnessed since the 1965 drought when commodity prices were low right across the eastern seaboard of Australia.~~

~~Our largest manufacturing industry in this state is our beef industry. It too is on its knees because of the drought in the far west, the south west, the central west, the north west and the mid-west. If we keep losing cattle and sheep numbers in this state we are not going to have rural and regional Queensland. We are not going to have the largest manufacturing industry in our state—that is the meat industry.~~

~~The Royalties for the Regions program has been a God send for many of our towns in rural and remote Queensland, especially those that are able to apply because they have resources in their areas. From 1901 to 2009 we have seen employment in rural areas decline from 14 per cent to three per cent. In 1990 there were 16.7 million sheep in Queensland. Today there are 2.9 million sheep in Queensland. In 1990 there were 9.9 million cattle in Queensland. Today there are 11.3 million cattle in Queensland.~~

~~Sheep producers cannot contend with the wild dog issue any longer. They are going to go broke if they stay in the sheep and wool industry. We have seen a mass exodus of employees from the shearing industry. The cattle industry is not as labour intensive as the sheep industry. Towns like Goondiwindi, St George, Cunnamulla, Charleville, Quilpie, Barcaldine, Blackall, Augathella and right through to Winton, Hughenden and Richmond are sheep towns. They traditionally boasted large numbers of employees who earned their money from the sheep industry and spent their money in those towns. We have to get those towns operational again. I suggest that Joe Hockey find \$20 million to build the sheep fence that we need to protect the industry from wild dogs so that we can see the industry rebuild.~~

~~(Time expired)~~

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The time for matters of public interest has expired.~~

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Health Ombudsman Act 2013, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the [Mental Health Act 2000, the [Public Health Act 2005, the Radiation Safety Act 1999, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 and the Transplantation of Anatomy Act 1979 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

The bill amends eight Health portfolio acts to support policy initiatives of the government and to improve the effective operation of the relevant acts. The bill makes a number of amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to strengthen smoking bans in Queensland. More

than 3,400 Queenslanders die each year from smoking related illnesses and smoking accounts for an estimated \$6.1 billion every year in health costs, lost productivity and premature death in Queensland.

Strong tobacco legislation is one element of a multistrategy approach for reducing smoking rates. While Queensland has some of the strongest tobacco legislation in Australia, there is community support for the laws to go further. The bill amends the tobacco act to extend smoking bans on and around health facilities, school grounds and in prisons.

The bill also amends the tobacco act to subject personal vaporisers and associated components to the same restrictions applied to tobacco products. This includes prohibiting their sale and supply to children, restricting advertising and display at retail outlets and prohibiting use in enclosed and outdoor smoke free places. This proposal is a 'same rules apply' approach rather than totally prohibiting personal vaporisers. This amendment aims to protect the years of campaigning by governments and communities to denormalise smoking. There is no doubt that many of these personal vaporisers are certainly being used as an introductory process for people, and particularly children, into the very bad and life-limiting habit of smoking.

The bill also makes amendments to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 to facilitate the appropriate supply of blood products and tissue based therapeutic products to Queensland patients and health service providers. Existing controls in the Transplantation and Anatomy Act on buying, selling and advertising human tissue based products are more restrictive in Queensland than in some other states. These controls have been effective in restricting the commercial trade in human tissue and organs. However, they potentially obstruct the efficient supply of blood and blood products under the national blood supply arrangements and the supply of tissue based therapeutic products approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The amendments to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act clarify that third parties contracted by the Commonwealth or Queensland to supply blood and blood products are able to buy, advertise and sell those products in Queensland. The amendments also clarify that tissue based therapeutic products that are included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods can be bought, sold and advertised in Queensland. Tissue based products include surgical bone putty to aid in the healing of broken bones and skin tissue, with the cells removed, to promote skin growth.

The transplantation and Anatomy Act and the Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2003 both prohibit the commercial trade in human eggs, human sperm and human embryos. The Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act allows for reasonable expenses to be reimbursed to someone who supplies donor eggs, sperm or embryos. Reimbursement of expenses is prohibited by the Transplantation and Anatomy Act. The bill clarifies that if the Transplantation and Anatomy Act is inconsistent with the Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act, the latter prevails to the extent of the inconsistency. The bill also creates a power of delegation for the minister under the Transplantation and Anatomy Act which will allow the minister to delegate his or her functions to an appropriate official.

The bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 and the Ambulance Service Act 1991 to give effect to recommendations of the review of root cause analysis legislation. Root cause analysis is a method used to analyse serious clinical incidents associated with the provision of health care, such as those resulting in serious injury or unexpected death.

A multidisciplinary root cause analysis team will be appointed to retrospectively analyse the sequence of events leading to a clinical incident, identify contributing factors and making recommendations for how to prevent similar events from occurring in the future. The bill makes a number of amendments to the root cause analysis provision in these two acts to clarify their intent and improve the workability of the legislation.

017 The bill also expands the application of the root cause analysis provisions to include non-government organisations prescribed under a regulation as a means of further enhancing the quality and safety of the health services. Only those organisations considered able to conduct root cause analysis as part of their quality improvement processes will be able to be prescribed.

The Public Health Act of 2005 is also amended by the bill to transfer civil liability for asbestos related matters from local governments to the state. These amendments give effect to recommendations from the *Asbestos report: an investigation into the regulation of asbestos in Queensland*. The amendments provide indemnity to local governments against civil liability for the management of asbestos related health risks in non-workplace settings. The protection only applies to specified local government officers who are acting in an official capacity under the Public Health

Act. The indemnity is contingent upon local governments complying with a number of conditions including record keeping and staff training.

The bill goes on to make a number of amendments to the Radiation Safety Act 1999 to improve the effective and efficient operation of this act. In particular, the bill will allow the renewal of an act instrument such as a licence up to 30 days after its expiry.

Currently the department of health cannot accept an application for renewal if it is received after a licence or another act instrument has expired. This creates a regulatory burden on individuals and businesses and an administrative burden on government. The bill creates a framework to enable act instruments to be renewed if they are received by the department within 30 days after their expiry date. These amendments will reduce both costs and red tape. Other amendments in the bill are minor and operational in nature and will improve the effective operation of the acts they amend.

This bill supports a number of key initiatives of this government. The amendments to extend smoking bans and apply existing tobacco restrictions to electronic cigarettes are consistent with this government's commitment to reinvigorate tobacco control efforts in Queensland. These amendments will assist in addressing the health, social and economic impacts that smoking has on thousands of Queenslanders.

Addressing the operational issues in the Transplantation and Anatomy Act will improve the accessibility of blood and blood products as well as tissue based therapeutic goods to Queensland patients and their service providers.

Clarifying the intent and workability of the root cause analysis provisions in the Hospital and Health Boards Act and the Ambulance Service Act will assist in addressing and preventing patient harm associated with health care. The bill is consistent with the government's commitment to reducing the regulatory burden and red tape and enhancing operational effectiveness. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.11 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 Health and Community Services Committee

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

~~DISASTER MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Introduction~~



~~**Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (12.12 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Disaster Management Act 2003 and to make a regulation under the Disaster Management Act 2003 for 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: Disaster Management Amendment Bill 2014.~~

~~Tabled paper: Disaster Management Amendment Bill 2014, Explanatory Notes.~~

~~Today, I am pleased to introduce the Disaster Management Amendment Bill 2014. The purpose of the bill is to improve governance of disaster management at the state level. I believe Queensland is one of the best places in the world to live. However, to live in this great state, it is important to be prepared in the event we may need to face natural disasters.~~

~~In recent times there have been a number of significant natural disasters that Queenslanders have endured. We can all remember the devastation and destruction caused by events such as Tropical Cyclones Oswald, Ita and Larry and the numerous floods and bushfires that have affected almost every corner of this great state at some point in recent times. We all know someone whose life has been affected as a consequence of a natural disaster.~~