

~~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.

This government has a strong plan for a brighter and safer future. Queenslanders need a world-class disaster management strategy to ensure we are best placed to respond to, and overcome, natural disasters in the future. I believe we have reached that world-class standard and I am proud of the way that Queenslanders have responded to recent natural disasters that have affected our communities. However, we cannot be complacent. We must continually learn from previous experiences and strive for best practice.

The bill demonstrates this government's commitment to continually improve on our current disaster management measures. In response to issues highlighted during the disaster events I have just mentioned and the Floods Commission of Inquiry, this government has conducted a review of the high-level governance arrangements currently in place under the Disaster Management Act 2003. The Disaster Management Act 2003 established a model for responding to disasters at a local, district and state level. Currently, at the state level, the act creates the State Disaster Management Group, or the SDMG, which is tasked with a range of high-level disaster management functions within the state. In addition to the SDMG, the Disaster Management Cabinet Committee (DMCC) exists to provide high-level governance of disaster management arrangements.

This review, conducted by an advisory group chaired by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, focused on the interplay of the State Disaster Management Group with the Disaster Management Cabinet Committee. The review concluded that the Disaster Management Act should be amended to improve these governance arrangements. This would be achieved by creating a new cabinet committee called the Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC), which will replace the Disaster Management Cabinet Committee, DMCC, and the State Disaster Management Group, the SDMG.

At this point, I wish to stress to the House that this bill does not change the disaster management arrangements at local or district levels. Rather, this bill will address state level management and strategic guidance matters. The formation of the Queensland Disaster Management Committee will simplify Queensland's disaster management structure by reducing one layer of governance and allow direct ministerial participation in the strategic management of disaster events. This change will ensure decision making is faster and better informed and will also allow a direct line of communication between the QDMC, the State Disaster Coordinator and the State Recovery Coordinator.

The QDMC will be chaired by the Premier and the deputy chair will be the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience. The Queensland Disaster Management Committee will include relevant ministers from the existing Disaster Management Cabinet Committee and their directors-general from the State Disaster Management Group. The chair can invite external members as required to draw on their relevant expertise.

The approach proposed in this bill ensures that all relevant personnel, including ministers, directors-general and appropriate non-government agencies and experts, are involved in providing strategic advice in relation to disaster management. The bill also responds to an observation of the Police and Community Safety Review about the position of State Disaster Coordinator. The bill ensures that a person will always be appointed to this position. This will ensure that at all times a suitably qualified and experienced person is available to lead the coordination of disaster response across the state.

This bill aims to provide cohesion and enhance efficiencies in the response to disasters. In doing so, this government is ensuring that Queensland is in the best position to prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events. It is all part of this government's strong plan for a brighter, safer, more prepared and more resilient future for Queenslanders not just now, but for years to come. I commend this bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (12.19 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

**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.

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## ~~QUEENSLAND HERITAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

### ~~Introduction~~



~~**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (12.19 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 for particular purposes and to make consequential amendments of other acts as stated in schedule 1 for purposes related to those particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~*Tabled paper: Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.*~~

~~*Tabled paper: Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.*~~

~~Queensland's cultural heritage is part of our common inheritance and as communities, government, businesses, professional organisations and heritage advocates we all share a responsibility to conserve it for future generations. The places associated with that heritage are unique and, along with our diverse landscapes and ecosystems, set this state apart. Many exciting opportunities exist to ensure these places draw tourists to Queensland, further entice interstate migrants to make this great state their permanent home and reinforce our identity as Queenslanders. It is with pleasure that I introduce the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, which aims to reinvigorate our approach to conserving and promoting our important heritage assets, thereby forging strong connections with what is our living heritage.~~

~~This bill better aligns the Heritage Act to its purpose of conserving Queensland's cultural heritage, putting it in the forefront of heritage legislation across Australia. It has five core objectives, which are to (1) facilitate promotion of Queensland's places of cultural heritage significance, (2) streamline the statutory processes associated with entry of places in, and removal of them from, the Queensland Heritage Register, (3) reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on the owners of heritage listed places and further encourage appropriate development of these places, (4) strengthen protections for the state's most important historic heritage places and (5) provide more flexibility to local government in carrying out its important role in identifying and protecting places of local heritage significance.~~

~~Wide-ranging consultation on a discussion paper which occurred in May and June this year and generated about 50 submissions has informed preparation of this bill and provided clear direction on a number of key issues.~~

~~The Queensland Heritage Council, established under the Heritage Act as the independent decision-maker about the Queensland Heritage Register, has participated fully in the review and offered its valuable suggestions. I particularly acknowledge the contribution of the council's chair, Professor Peter Coaldrake, and thank him for that contribution.~~

~~In line with the Newman government's open data reform agenda, the bill makes appropriate information about places entered in the Queensland Heritage Register more accessible to the community. This may occur when someone is considering the purchase of a property, deciding to do work on a heritage listed place or researching a school assignment. The reforms also enable greater community participation in the process whereby places are considered for entry in, or removal from, the register. The bill emphasises that the Queensland Heritage Register is the chief instrument by which places of outstanding heritage value to the state are identified and protected. It acknowledges that local government plays a vital role in identifying and establishing appropriate protections for places of local heritage significance. This aligns with the national framework for managing heritage that matches the values of a place to the level of government best positioned to regulate them.~~

~~The bill makes improvements to the processes whereby places are nominated to the state register and assessed in terms of the level of their cultural heritage significance. It clearly articulates the standard of information that must accompany an application to ensure a convincing case is made that the place should be investigated further and considered for entry into the register. The bill gives owners the opportunity to make a considered written response to the recommendation made by the department before the Heritage Council makes its decision, and once the Heritage Council makes a~~