

~~proactively minimise animal welfare, biosecurity and safety risks. The accreditation of private sector assessors will provide more flexibility for exhibitors. Exhibitors will be able to go to the market for accredited assessors to prepare a report that will be used in deciding licence renewal applications. This will encourage industry self-regulation.~~

~~Minimum exhibition requirements will ensure that animals kept under an exhibition licence are actually exhibited. This is important because the species to which they apply cannot be kept for private recreation in Queensland. High pest potential animals listed as prohibited matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014 will need to be based in a fixed exhibit open to the public. Most other species will need to be exhibited on at least 12 occasions each year.~~

017 ~~Replacing the fragmented current legislation with a single industry-specific act has been publicly canvassed for many years. It took the LNP government to get the ball rolling by releasing a detailed proposal in a regulatory impact statement for public comment late last year. The LNP government has continued to involve industry during drafting of the bill. In particular, industry nominees took part in a detailed workshop to discuss a working draft of the bill in July this year.~~

~~I would like to thank those who have provided comment and feedback through these consultation processes. Your involvement has ensured that we have delivered a framework for the exhibition of animals in Queensland that cuts red tape and creates opportunity, while minimising the risks to animal welfare, biosecurity and safety.~~

~~The bill sends a clear message that the LNP government recognises the importance of the exhibited animals industry and will work with exhibitors throughout Queensland to foster world-class wildlife experiences for tourists and the industry's contribution to our own way of life in Queensland. This bill will deliver benefits, therefore, to industry and also to the wider community. I commend the bill to the House.~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Hon. JJ McVEIGH (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.10 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 Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee~~

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

RECREATION AREAS MANAGEMENT AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12.11 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Forestry Act 1959 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 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: Recreation Areas Management and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Recreation Areas Management and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Recreation Areas Management and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014. This bill will amend the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 and the Forestry Act 1959 to support this government's commitment to cut red tape and streamline the permit system for tourism and recreation in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas. The amendments through this bill will address two key initiatives. The first initiative will streamline the processes and requirements applying to operators seeking approvals to conduct commercial activities that cross marine parks and recreation areas. Recent amendments to subordinate legislation under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 allow commercial activity permits for protected areas, such as national parks, to be combined in a single document with a state and/or Commonwealth marine park permission.

This bill will provide consistency across the suite of legislation that applies to areas managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service by allowing commercial activity permits for recreation areas, such as the Green Island Recreation Area, to be combined in a single document with a state and/or Commonwealth marine park permission. To prevent disjointed management of the different approvals, a number of complementary amendments will be made to the Recreation Areas Management Act to allow the benefits that apply to the related marine park permission to also apply to the commercial activity permits. These amendments include: removing the three-year maximum term so that it can have the same term as the related marine park permission; allowing it to be transferred with the marine park permission if a business is sold; and aligning the time frames from lodging an application to receiving a final decision with those that apply to the related marine park permission. Applicants will benefit from being able to lodge a single application form, pay a single application fee and have a single point of contact for their application. They will be able to receive a single permit document with consistent access provisions across tenures and common terms and conditions.

The second initiative under this bill will cut red tape and reduce unnecessary regulation for low impact non-commercial activities being conducted on recreation areas, state forests and timber reserves managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The group activity permit classification has historically been used to manage a wide range of low and high impact non-commercial organised group activities and community events on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas. Low impact activities include such things as weddings, public meetings, religious activities and club based cycling, bushwalking and birdwatching activities. Higher impact activities include organised events such as vehicle rallies, competitive sporting events, concerts and Australian Defence Force training exercises. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has taken administrative actions to reduce the number of permits granted for these low-risk activities while continuing to regulate the higher risk activities that are likely to have an impact on the area, or affect the use of the area by other persons.

These administrative actions include the implementation of policy to provide more clarification to applicants around the circumstances when a permit is and is not required; and introducing an on-line notification process to allow organisers to provide details of upcoming events and to allow the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to determine whether a permit is required. These actions have resulted in the reduction of the number of permits granted from 442 during the 2011-12 financial year to 67 permits during the 2013-14 financial year. This bill supports these actions by removing the group activity permit classification and replacing it with an alternative mechanism to manage 'organised events' under the Recreation Areas Management Act and the Forestry Act. The change in terminology from 'group activity' to 'organised event' better reflects the nature of the higher impact non-commercial events that will continue to be regulated.

Although the amendments are intended to provide, as far as practicable, consistency across the suite of legislation that applies to areas managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, the meaning of an organised event will differ slightly under the Forestry Act. This is intended to allow, in state forest and timber reserves, a permit to be required in circumstances where a person involved in an organised event is likely to be exposed to unreasonable risks from another activity conducted in the area. This is a sensible and key distinction between the Forestry Act and the Recreation Areas Management Act amendments. This recognises that the nature of some activities undertaken on state forests and timber reserves, such as timber harvesting or quarrying, are quite different and pose different risks to those in recreation areas. A permit allows the organised event to be located and managed in a way that would minimise risks to participants.

The Recreation Areas Management and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014 builds on previous reforms undertaken by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to cut red tape and supports this government's commitment to improving access to our national parks and other public lands. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (12.17 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.

~~FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Resumed from 5 August (see p. 2364).~~

~~Second Reading~~



~~**Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (12.17 pm): I move—~~

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

~~I thank the Health and Community Services Committee for its consideration of the Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2014. I note that the committee tabled its report on 1 October 2014 and recommended that the bill be passed. The committee has made seven other recommendations and I intend to deal with them in turn. Before that, I would like to make some general comments about the content and the intent of the bill.~~

~~The bill seeks to amend the provisions of the Family Responsibilities Commission Act so that the FRC can continue to operate beyond 1 January 2015. The Family Responsibilities Commission is an independent statutory authority established under the act. The underlying drivers for this bill are to support cohesive and stable Indigenous communities and to provide greater certainty in how we do it. The welfare reform program was introduced to address high levels of entrenched welfare dependency, economic exclusion and social dysfunction. It aims to restore local authority, social norms and move people from unemployment into jobs and from social housing into home ownership. The work of the FRC also reflects this government's focus on education as a cornerstone of economic strength and future prosperity.~~

018 ~~I want to make it very clear that a primary outcome of the FRC is to improve school attendance in Indigenous communities. The FRC has been a key aspect of Queensland's Indigenous welfare reform program in the communities of Hope Vale, Aurukun, Coen and Mossman Gorge, where it has operated since 2008.~~

~~Since August 2014 the FRC has had the legislative authority to operate in Doomadgee. Extensive consultation showed community willingness for the commission to be introduced into Doomadgee. We are currently negotiating with the federal government and making preparations for that to happen.~~

~~The commission works in partnership with families and communities to re-establish acceptable social norms, local Indigenous authority, individual responsibility and accountability. The Family Responsibilities Commission is constituted by a commissioner, deputy commissioner and 29 local commissioners. Under current provisions notifications are sent to the FRC by Queensland government agencies when a community resident who is a recipient of social welfare payments is found to be: the parent of a child who is not enrolled at school or who has unexplained absences in school attendance; subject to a child protection notification; convicted in a Magistrates Court; or in breach of a housing tenancy agreement.~~

~~The FRC Act enables the FRC to hold conferences with community residents who are in receipt of welfare payments and who are the subject of an agency notice to address the matter. Where a person does not comply with a direction or an order to attend support services, the FRC can order that 60, 75 or 90 per cent of a person's welfare payments be managed via a Basics Card which restricts the purchase of excluded items such as alcohol, tobacco and gambling products with or without the person's agreement. A community resident is also able to enter into a voluntary agreement with the FRC to be referred to services or have their welfare payments income managed as part of a Family Responsibilities Agreement.~~

~~Extensive consultations were conducted with community members and other key stakeholders of Doomadgee and the four initial welfare reform areas of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge before this bill was introduced into the parliament. During the consultations members indicated that their communities have become quieter and that things were better. There was widespread~~