

~~The government is acting to meet its election commitment about members' salaries. We believe that when it comes to members' salaries, they should not be able to be increased by a rate higher than that applying to public sector employees. The bill provides that when a decision is made to increase the salaries of public sector employees, the tribunal must, within 90 days, make a determination outlining the extent of any increase that may apply to the base salary and additional salaries of members. In making such a determination, the bill provides that the tribunal cannot increase the base salary or additional salaries of members by more than the percentage amount of the salary increase that public sector employees have been granted. The bill also provides that any increase to the base salary or additional salaries of members determined by the tribunal must have the same commencement date as the increase granted to public sector employees.~~

~~Following a public service salary decision, the tribunal will first have to decide if a salary increase for members is to apply, and if it agrees to an increase the tribunal will then have to determine the percentage rate to apply while noting the percentage rate that it cannot exceed. This is a similar situation to that in New South Wales, where their Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal is legally prevented from granting percentage salary increases to members of the New South Wales parliament which exceed the New South Wales government's wages cap for public sector employees.~~

~~In closing, Mr Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce a bill that restores autonomy to the position of Speaker and also allows a crossbench member to have both a voice and a vote on matters considered by the CLA. I commend the bill to the House.~~

First Reading

~~Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (11.48 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 Finance and Administration Committee

~~015 Mr SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.~~

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

~~Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (11.49 am), by leave, without notice: I move~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Finance and Administration Committee report to the House on the Parliament of Queensland and Other Acts Amendment Bill by 8 May 2015.~~

~~Question put That the motion be agreed to.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (11.49 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 and the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

Tabled paper: Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

The Labor government made a commitment to the people of Queensland to keep the Queensland Reconstruction Authority in existence after 30 June 2015 so that disaster recovery infrastructure built over the past five years is protected. The government also promised that local government elections will be run to the same high standards of independence and efficiency as state

and federal elections. To deliver these commitments I am pleased to introduce into the House today the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

The bill repeals the sunset clause of 30 June 2015 from the Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011 to ensure the Queensland Reconstruction Authority can continue the critical work of helping communities effectively and efficiently recover from the impacts of natural disasters that have devastated Queensland over recent times including severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority administers the rebuilding program for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements activated disaster events and works closely with local governments to ensure the effective recovery of Queensland communities. The work of the authority is integral as Queensland deals with natural disasters and moves from response to recovery.

Many Queenslanders are going through traumatic times as a result of natural disasters. The extension of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority is recognition of the fact that, unfortunately, natural disasters are a fact of life in Queensland and we need to be constantly ready to prepare, respond and recover.

Fortunately, there were no fatalities as a result of Tropical Cyclone Marcia; however, the destructive winds, heavy rainfall and flood events continue to have a catastrophic effect on many Queensland communities. The scale and scope of damage saw the activation of the NDRRA in 14 local government areas, not only Rockhampton, Livingstone, North Burnett and Banana but also North Mackay and south to the Sunshine Coast.

The Palaszczuk government acknowledges that many Queenslanders are continuing to face the uphill battle of getting their lives back to normal. I want to assure them that the government's help and assistance is ongoing and that they will not be forgotten, as shown in the release of the recovery plan, released on Monday of this week.

I now turn to the amendments to the Local Government Electoral Act 2011. The bill ensures that a local government chief executive officer cannot be the returning officer for a local government election unless the chief executive officer is the only person reasonably available in a community to perform the role. Sensibly, the bill provides for an exception to be made if in some smaller communities the local government chief executive officer is the only person reasonably available in the community to perform the role with the necessary experience in conducting local government elections. In these instances the chief executive officer is appointed the returning officer by the Electoral Commission and is therefore under the direction and authority of the Electoral Commission, ensuring the impartiality and integrity of the local government election is protected.

Queenslanders are entitled to have state and local governments that are accountable and open according to the principles of the Westminster system. As chief executive officers of local governments work closely with elected mayors and councillors in carrying out their duties, the chief executive officer performing the role of returning officer presents the potential for a conflict of interest, especially where incumbents recontest an election.

Labor believes that local government is the level of government closest to the community. Every day local government affects the lives of Queenslanders and local government is a genuine partner in the Australian government system. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge local government chief executive officers and councillors and the important work they do in supporting local communities, and I thank them for their continuing hard work.

Finally, the bill includes a minor amendment to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to ensure that the unproclaimed provisions of the act that relate to heavy vehicle registration do not automatically commence ahead of the implementation of a national heavy vehicle registration system. On 20 March 2015 I and my colleagues on the Transport and Infrastructure Council voted to delay the commencement of a national heavy vehicle registration system until 1 July 2018. The council also sought the Queensland government's support as host jurisdiction for this important national reform to make the necessary amendments to the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to enable this to happen. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (11.54 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 Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (11.55 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report to the House on the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 22 May 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

~~PAYROLL TAX REBATE, REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Introduction~~



~~**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.55 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013, the Duties Act 2001, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Financial Accountability Act 2009, the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002, the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.~~

~~Tabled paper: Payroll Tax Rebate, Revenue and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.~~

~~This bill seeks to implement the government's 2015 election commitments to provide a payroll tax rebate for apprentice and trainee wages and to restore high standards in Queensland's plumbing industry. The bill will also amend Queensland's revenue legislation and other acts administered through the Treasury department to ensure their currency and proper operation.~~

~~This government recognises that apprenticeships and traineeships provide a great employment pathway, particularly for young Queenslanders. This in turn contributes to the development of a highly skilled workforce to permit delivery of projects to ensure Queensland's economic growth into the future.~~

~~As an incentive to employers to hire apprentices and trainees, the government's election commitments included the introduction of a 25 per cent payroll tax rebate on the wages of apprentices and trainees, funded over three years, in addition to the existing exemption for apprentice and trainee wages. This commitment is delivered through extending the application of provisions introduced by a former Labor government, providing an apprentice and trainee wages rebate for the 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 financial years. As amended, the provisions will now also apply for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years. This will capitalise on existing systems and administrative frameworks in place for the earlier rebate, minimising implementation costs and utilising a model familiar to Queensland employers.~~

~~This bill also makes amendments to the Duties Act 2001 and the Taxation Administration Act 2001 to support the introduction of electronic conveyancing in Queensland. Electronic conveyancing will provide a process for settling qualifying land transactions between parties and their financiers through a shared electronic workspace as an alternative to the traditional face to face settlement process. This Council of Australian Governments initiative will involve the electronic creation of~~