

~~in Council approval to defer the commencement of a number of the provisions of the WRAOLA Act that were due to commence on 18 February 2015. In fact, one of the first acts of the Palaszczuk government was to stop this frightening act of parliament that took away environmental sustainability and also allowed water development options to be taken without any scientific or hydrological proof, which meant that water could be taken, by the signature of the minister, from a near dry creek bed.~~

~~The LNP had a track record of deeply unpopular and questionable amendments to the legislative practices. Who can forget the MER(CP) Bill, which contained the famous Coordinator General amendment to strip landholders of longstanding rights and notification objection rights. Let us not forget that the WRAOLA Act proposed to remove the very essence of the Water Act: sustainable water planning and use. It also removed science. It removed science—a horrible word for those opposite—and hydrological assessment to make sure that our river catchments—~~

~~**Mr CRIPPS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.~~

~~**Mr SPEAKER:** One moment, Minister. What is your point of order, member for Hinchinbrook?~~

~~**Mr CRIPPS:** The minister is misleading the parliament in relation to his assertion that there was no environmental assessment process for the water development option. I will write to you in that regard.~~

~~**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, that is not a point of order, but I am happy for you to write to me. Minister, please finish your answer and then we will move on.~~

~~**Dr LYNHAM:** Currently, I am in the process of reviewing the act to ensure that what is delivered is in the best interests of all Queenslanders, putting science and hydrological assessment back into the act to ensure that jobs in Far North Queensland and jobs in the north western province, that is, the 400 jobs that were mentioned, will be available and sustainable into the future.~~

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## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **School Group Tours**



~~**Mr SPEAKER:** Before proceeding to the introduction of private members' bills, I inform all members that year 12 students, their coordinator and school captain from the Lockyer District High School in the electorate of Lockyer are in the gallery.~~

## **SUGAR INDUSTRY (REAL CHOICE IN MARKETING) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**



**Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.34 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Sugar Industry Act 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes and I nominate the Agriculture and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015.

*Tabled paper:* Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

The Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015 will provide canegrowers with the right to have real choice over who sells and prices grower economic interest sugar or GEI sugar. The bill addresses the imbalance in the market powers that currently exists between mill owners and growers. The imbalance and the power of the regional monopolies enjoyed by each mill in the market for sugarcane was first recognised in Australia in the early years of the 20th century, when sugar industry regulations were introduced to prevent mills from exercising their ability to squeeze the primary producers. Those regulations recognised the interdependence of the growers and the millers, to ensure growers and mills shared the market rewards and the risks from the sale of sugar. Although not described as such, the concept of grower economic interest sugar, GEI sugar, was given effect.

The sugar industry regulations were replaced by voluntary structures in 2005. In April 2014, Wilmar issued a public statement and indicated its intentions to exit the current sugar marketing arrangements from the end of the 2016 season. Shortly afterwards, two other milling groups, MSF Sugar, which is owned by Thailand's Mitr Phol Group, and Tully Sugar, which is owned by China's COFCO, also announced their intentions to exit the current marketing structure from the end of 2016, giving uncertainty to sugar marketing. That decision of the unilateral mills will deny growers any choice in how their share of production, their GEI sugar, is marketed in the future. Unless addressed,

those anticompetitive actions will restore the monopoly position of mills in the market for sugarcane, with ramifications across the whole industry. All milling companies and their supplying growers will be affected, including those that have elected not to withdraw from the marketing structures.

The Sugar Industry (Real Choice and Marketing) Amendment Act 2015 acknowledges the need for an amendment to the existing legislation that will provide growers with the ability to proactively be involved in the marketing of their own sugar. The bill recognises that both millers and growers have an economic interest in the sugar produced. It requires millers to provide a transparent platform for sugar marketing that provides growers a choice in who markets their GEI sugar and provides mills with symmetric rights in relation to mill economic interest sugar, or MEI sugar.

This bill is a collaborative effort of the farmers and industry bodies that are the sugarcane industry. I have consulted extensively with representatives and the KAP has initiated public meetings at Innisfail and Ingham to hear about the concerns of sugar towns and farmers, and the bill addresses those concerns. The bill will result in a stronger, fairer and more stable industry, and also gives confidence and security to Queensland communities that stretch north of Mossman and right through to the Sunshine Coast, which rely on the flow-on support that the sugar industry provides. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.38 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 Agriculture and Environment Committee



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

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## ~~HEALTH LEGISLATION (WAITING LIST INTEGRITY) AMENDMENT BILL~~

### ~~Introduction~~



~~**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.38 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to provide for the auditing and reporting of data relating to waiting times for patients of Hospital and Health Services. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Ambulance Services Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Health Legislation (Waiting List Integrity) Amendment Bill 2015.~~

~~Tabled paper: Health Legislation (Waiting List Integrity) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.~~

~~This bill arises as a result of the previous Queensland government's announcement of its intention to create an independent body to audit clinical waiting times and publish this information in an open and transparent way. Independent auditing and the publishing of waiting times are aimed to provide peace of mind for patients in the Queensland health system. We want Queenslanders to see the full picture of how their hospital is performing, and now they can access more hospital data than ever before.~~

~~The objectives of the bill are: one, to establish the Health Ombudsman as the independent reviewer of the clinical waiting times for Queensland patients in the public health system; two, to ensure the Health Ombudsman manages the auditing of wait time matters in a transparent, accountable and public way; and, three, to provide certainty in clinical waiting times for Queensland public hospital patients and allay concerns as a result of being on a waiting list longer than necessary. To achieve its objectives, the bill will establish the Office of the Health Ombudsman as the independent body to review and publish waiting time data and set out its functions and powers.~~

~~The bill will also achieve its objective of establishing and monitoring the integrity of the patient clinical waiting time from specialist outpatient appointments through to treatment by: requiring the health and hospital service to provide waiting time data to the Health Ombudsman; and requiring the~~