

~~The results are speaking for themselves. Since the election of the Palaszczuk government in Queensland, an extra 28,500 jobs have been created. Housing investor finance commitments in Queensland have hit a near eight-year high. According to the latest quarterly ANZ/Property Council Survey, confidence in the property sector has risen two points, putting Queensland above the national average. The Property Council has acknowledged that our positive economic policies are one of the key factors behind that increase in confidence—initiatives like the government's new proposed planning legislation, along with the SEQ Regional Plan and our new State Infrastructure Plan.~~

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~~In the last quarter, Queensland business confidence was the highest of all the mainland states for two months in a row. Consumer confidence has increased. In fact, the NAB business survey—these figures were released just in the last hour or so—show that Queensland remains the highest of the mainland states in trend terms. Queensland has an exciting new pipeline of major developments: we all know about stage 2 of the Gold Coast light rail project, the Queen's Wharf integrated resort development, Aquis in Cairns, ASF on the Gold Coast and the Herston Quarter in Brisbane, just to name a few.~~

~~Our exporters make a huge contribution to the Queensland economy with goods exports of more than \$47 billion and service exports of about \$10 billion, according to the latest figures. What are some examples of those? LNG exports contributed to a 15.7 per cent increase in the nominal value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports in the August quarter, compared to the same period last year. There has been a 9.7 per cent increase in coal exports. Beef exports have increased by 33.4 per cent in the 12 months to the August quarter and crops exports by \$315 million. We know that in recent weeks the Premier has led a hugely successful trade mission to China and Japan. We have a massive \$30 billion worth of trade with China and Japan, which are our top two trading partners. The value of our agreements with them, including the Japan Australia Economic Partnership Agreement, cannot be overstated.~~

~~I cannot speak about business in this state without mentioning some of the outstanding businesses, both large and small, within the Bulimba electorate and some of the individuals who are associated with them and who are now being acknowledged for excellence in their fields. I want to mention some of them here now. Australian Country Choice was a finalist in the agribusiness category of the Premier's Export Awards. Safe Work and Return to Work finalists include Decmil Australia for most significant improvements to work health and safety performance, plus the best health and safety management system; NOJA Power Switchgear for best solution to an identified electrical issue; Ecoriginals for the 2015 Telstra Queensland Start-Up Award; Susie Upton from Child Aware, winner of the 2015 Young Women's Business Award; and Savour Australia HOSTPLUS Awards for excellence in Queensland and Northern Territory restaurants and catering, for Satay Ria and Sushi Train, both in Cannon Hill. We are so proud of those businesses in our local area. I thank them for everything that they do to contribute to our local economy and community, and also to the Queensland economy.~~

~~The Palaszczuk government is pro-growth and pro-jobs and that is showing through. Most of all, we are about supporting Queensland to be the best it can be. We will continue to work with business and industry to promote jobs, growth and investment. I am very proud to be a part of that government.~~

FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.21 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2015.

Tabled paper: Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

The Family Responsibilities Commission is an independent statutory body established under the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008, the act. The FRC is a key mechanism supporting Queensland's welfare reform program based in the community areas of Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge. The welfare reform program is a successful tripartite partnership between the Queensland and Commonwealth governments and the Cape York Institute. A representative from each partner constitutes the Family Responsibilities Board that advises me about the operation of the FRC and, if requested, can also provide advice to the FRC.

As noted in the act, the main objects that form the foundation of the FRC are to support the restoration of socially responsible standards of behaviour and local authority in welfare reform community areas and to help community members resume primary responsibility for the wellbeing of their community and the individuals and families of the community. To assist in achieving this goal, the FRC is constituted of a commissioner and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local commissioners.

The fundamental way the FRC contributes to the objective of securing more resilient communities is by having the FRC convene conferences with community members who are the subject of formal notification for breaching a trigger under the act. Currently, the act provides for four trigger events. Those triggers operate when: a child does not attend school or is not enrolled; a child safety report is made; a person is convicted of an offence before the court, including the Childrens Court; a tenancy agreement is breached or the premises are used for an illegal purpose. Once the FRC is in receipt of a notification, it will then decide whether to request the person attend a conference in order to address the offending behaviour. In the case of a child convicted before the Childrens Court, the parent of the child will be the relevant person for the conferencing. In all cases, the FRC might decide that it will not take any action or give the person a warning about the offending behaviour, or it might recommend or order that the person attend community support services to address the offending behaviour, or where it considers it is warranted the FRC might order compulsory income management over the person's welfare payments.

Unfortunately, however, the current triggers do not cover all aspects of antisocial behaviour. Domestic violence is unacceptable. The issue of domestic violence has been forcefully drawn to our attention recently. If a person cannot feel safe at home and with their family, that is nothing short of a tragedy. As noted in the final report of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, *Not now, not ever—putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*, it is a horrifying statistic that in Queensland the number of reported incidents increased from 58,000 in 2011-12 to 66,000 in 2013-14. That equates to more than 180 reports to police of domestic violence incidents every day.

In investigating and preparing the report, the task force, which included Ms Ada Panawya Woolla, a local commissioner for Aurukun and now deputy mayor, received submissions suggesting a domestic and family violence trigger be created to facilitate FRC conferencing and referrals in circumstances where domestic violence orders are made by the courts. Recommendation No. 93 of the task force report subsequently recommended that the Queensland government amend the act to require a court to notify the FRC when a protection order under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 is made naming a welfare reform community resident as the respondent. By including an amendment to the act to give legislative effect to recommendation No. 93, this government reinforces its commitment to address the incidents of domestic violence and, as far as the welfare reform communities are involved, reiterate its commitment to provide a mechanism to restore socially responsible standards of behaviour and help community members resume primary responsibility for themselves, other community members and families.

The bill also introduces a number of measures that take account of the practical realities of the day-to-day business of the FRC that have arisen since its establishment in 2008, to make sure it can operate in the most efficient way. As I have said, the FRC might, in appropriate circumstances, order that a person be subjected to compulsory income management in relation to their welfare payments. Under the act, a decision to order income management can only be exercised by the FRC commissioner. In recognition of their experience and representative role within the communities, the bill allows delegation of the commissioner's responsibilities to the chairperson of a commission constituted by local commissioners where the commissioner is satisfied that the appointed chairperson is appropriately qualified. Importantly, this increases recognition of the authority of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local commissioners. It will also allow cost savings in terms of the commissioner's travel and improve practical flexibility for the FRC.

The bill contributes to this improved flexibility by expanding the eligibility requirements for the FRC registrar position to recognise the managerial and executive elements that the role requires. Eligibility requirements will be extended from the person needing to be a lawyer or having relevant court experience to reference a person who is appropriately qualified for the position given its expanded role. As the Commonwealth government has phased out its community development employment projects or CDEP scheme, the bill will amend the act by deleting all outdated references to CDEP scheme participants.

The proposed amendments that introduce the domestic violence trigger will also clarify the process for generating agency notices under the existing youth justice trigger. The amendment will

require that the court provide a notice regarding a child when it is advised that the child or the child's parent live or have lived in a welfare reform community.

I thank all the FRC commissioners, community leaders and other community members within the welfare reform community areas and our partners, the Australian government and the Cape York Institute, for their continued commitment to welfare reform in their respective communities. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.27 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 Finance and Administration Committee

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

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~~RETAIL SHOP LEASES AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Introduction~~



~~**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.29 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 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: Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2015.~~

~~Tabled paper: Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.~~

~~I am pleased to introduce the Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2015. The Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 governs retail leasing in Queensland and its object is to promote efficiency and equity in the conduct of certain retail businesses in our state.~~

~~The act sets out mandatory minimum standards for retail shop leases and provides a low cost dispute resolution process for the retail sector. The statutory framework under the act encourages good leasing practice and promotes fairness during the negotiation and term of the lease. It addresses imbalance in negotiating power and access to information between major shopping centre landlords and small retail tenants.~~

~~The purpose of the bill is to give effect to the consultation outcomes from the statutory review of the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994. The review commenced in 2011 and included public consultation on a discussion paper and an options paper. There were 58 submissions to the review and submitters included key retail sector and professional stakeholders, individual tenants and landlords, as well as legal and valuation professionals.~~

~~The review consultation also included a stakeholder reference group process. The reference group comprised representatives from the National Retail Association, the Australian Retailers Association, the Australian Property Institute, Lease 1, the Property Council of Australia Queensland, the Shopping Centre Council of Australia, the Queensland Newsagents Federation, the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland, the Queensland Law Society, the Large Law Firm Group and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland.~~

~~The reference group considered 127 options for changes to the act raised through the public consultation process and provided its report and recommendations to the former government in December 2013. The reference group report was tabled in the parliament in November 2014 by the former government on introduction of the Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2014. The amendments contained in the bill are based on the findings and recommendations in the reference group report. This bill represents the government's respect for the long consultation process and the hard work of those stakeholders over many years.~~