

~~Giving Queensland children a healthy start will ensure they have the best possible opportunity to reach their full potential and to live a healthy and prosperous life. I commend the bill to the House.~~

~~First Reading~~

~~Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.51 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, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee~~

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.~~


~~DISTINGUISHED VISITOR~~

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am pleased to acknowledge today in the gallery His Excellency Mr Yogesh Punja, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji. Welcome to our parliament.~~

~~Honourable members: Hear, hear!~~

UNIVERSITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.51 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Central Queensland University Act 1998, the Griffith University Act 1998, the James Cook University Act 1997, the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998, the University of Queensland Act 1998, the University of Southern Queensland Act 1998 and the University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

Tabled paper: University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes.

Queensland's universities make a significant contribution to the state through their world-class research and through providing higher education courses to domestic and international students. There are seven public universities established by legislation in Queensland: Central Queensland University; Griffith University; James Cook University; Queensland University of Technology; University of Queensland; University of the Sunshine Coast; and University of Southern Queensland. I was just meeting with the chancellor and vice-chancellor of the Central Queensland University before coming up here.

These universities are established as statutory bodies under their own act and the Queensland government is responsible for overseeing their financial reporting and corporate governance. In 2012 the Australian government, through the establishment of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, took over the regulation of higher education courses and providers. Following this change in regulatory responsibility, the university acts were reviewed to identify ways to reduce the regulatory burden and to modernise the legislative framework. The review was conducted in consultation with the seven public universities, the National Tertiary Education Union, the Together Union and the National Union of Students.

The bill implements the reforms identified during the review. The bill will remove the capacity for universities to make university statutes. Universities have gradually moved to replace statutes with university policy. Only five universities currently have statutes in place, dealing with matters such as membership of the convocation or alumni association, conduct of council elections, making and

notifying of university rules and publishing fees. Universities no longer use statutes to provide for student or academic discipline.

The process of making a statute is complex and time consuming for universities. Removing the ability to make statutes will reduce red tape on universities and is expected to have a negligible impact on students. The bill ensures that the transparency and accountability of the election of students and staff members to the university governing body is maintained by imposing an obligation on all universities to develop and publish an election policy for the election process.

The bill will remove limitations on the delegation of powers and functions of university governing bodies. It will enable university governing bodies to delegate decisions about the spending of funds donated to the university or given to the university under a special grant. The bill will also allow university governing bodies, when delegating functions or powers to the vice-chancellor, to permit the vice-chancellor to further delegate that function or power to an appropriately qualified member of the university staff. This amendment is consistent with modern corporate governance and will reduce red tape on the universities. University governing bodies will remain responsible and accountable for the decision-making of delegates.

The bill strengthens the integrity provisions in university acts by requiring members of governing bodies to notify the minister or governing body if they have become disqualified from being a member. This requirement ensures that the governing body is aware of changes in a person's suitability to be a member. Safeguards against the unauthorised use of this information are also included in the bill.

During the review of university acts, it was identified that the James Cook University Council faces particular difficulties ensuring it has the appropriate mix of skills, expertise, experience and corporate knowledge. I acknowledge the work of the members who represent the Townsville community here in this parliament—the member for Townsville, the member for Mundingburra and the member for Thuringowa—in terms of their conversations with me around supporting the reforms in the bill relating to JCU.

When compared to other universities, the JCU Council has the equal largest number of members, 22; the greatest number of elected members, 10; and the lowest number of council appointed members, one. This means that the JCU Council does not have the flexibility needed to ensure it has the right balance of expertise and diversity to provide strategic leadership to the university. We know from the representations of the university itself and the Townsville members of parliament that JCU is one of the biggest employers in Townsville. It is important that we support that university.

JCU was invited to develop a new governance structure, in consultation with its university community, for consideration by the government. Following extensive consultation with its stakeholders, JCU proposed the reform model which has been largely adopted in this bill. The bill allows JCU to make a resolution, passed by a two-thirds majority of its council, about the council's size and composition. The council must have between 11 and 21 members and must include: two to three official members—the chancellor, vice-chancellor and possibly the chairperson of the academic board, depending on whether the vice-chancellor is also the chairperson of the academic board—between three and six members appointed by the Governor in Council; between three and six elected members; and between three and six additional members, two of whom must be graduates of the university.

The elected members on the council must be at least three or 25 per cent of the total number of members on the council and must include at least one elected member of the academic staff, one elected member of the professional and technical staff and one elected student member. This ensures that the views of the staff and students are appropriately represented on the council. This requirement must be adhered to, even during the period of time that the council is transitioning from one governance structure to another.

The bill also ensures that a membership resolution cannot end the term of appointment of an existing member of the council. This prevents a membership resolution being used as a mechanism to remove an existing member from office. The provisions provide an appropriate balance between flexibility, diversity of membership and staff and student representation.

This bill only includes governance reforms to JCU's act because of the particular issues identified during the review of university acts. However, other universities may also benefit from adoption of this model. If the JCU governance reforms are passed by parliament, I will invite Queensland's other public universities to consider looking at this model as well. Any university seeking to adopt the model will be required to consult widely with its stakeholders, as was the government's requirement of JCU. I wanted to make sure that there was genuine consultation with the people who would be directly affected by the changes outlined in the bill.

As I have outlined, the bill contains important reforms which will modernise the university acts and ensure that Queensland's public universities can continue to provide high-quality research and education that contributes to Queensland's economic and social development. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.59 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 Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

022

TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Adult Proof of Age Card Act 2008, the Adult Proof of Age Card Regulation 2010, the Civil Partnerships Regulation 2012, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the Liquor Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) Act 2017, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the Tow Truck Regulation 2009, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Infrastructure (Dangerous Goods By Rail) Regulation 2008, the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2016, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management Dangerous Goods) Regulation 2008, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management Driver Licensing) Regulation 2010, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994, the Transport Security (Counter Terrorism) Act 1998 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2011 for particular purposes and to repeal the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Transitional Regulation 2016. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

Tabled paper: Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes.

The principal purpose of the bill is to enhance regulatory and administrative efficiency and to continue to provide a positive experience for customers dealing with the Department of Transport and Main Roads. The bill will amend the Adult Proof of Age Card Act 2008 to allow 15 to 17 year olds to be issued with a photo identification card. Currently, people 18 years or older can be issued with an adult proof of age card. This card is a useful form of identification that the person can use to access a very broad range of goods and services. These cards are particularly useful for those people who do not hold a driver's licence.

Adult proof of age cards are now recognised as a primary form of identification by banks, telecommunications companies and other government and non government organisations that require evidence of identity. Feedback to the Department of Transport and Main Roads has indicated that a photo identification card would also be very useful for 15 to 17 year olds. Young people often begin part time work when they are 15 and are becoming increasingly independent. The bill will ensure that these young people can have a recognised form of photo identification, allowing them to more easily access services such as opening a bank account.