

~~The bill also amends the Explosives Act 1999 to improve community safety by strengthening security provisions. Queensland is the largest user of explosives in Australia, predominately in the mining industry, using approximately one-third of the three million tonnes consumed annually. In Queensland, 'explosives' includes ammunition, blasting explosives, distress signals, flares, fireworks, propellants and pyrotechnics. Licence holders can purchase, possess, use, transport and store various amounts of explosives depending on their licence. Explosives safety and security are critical to the resources industry and for the protection of the Queensland community. As it stands, the Explosives Act is silent on security related matters and it is essential that explosives legislation is kept current with contemporary safety and security standards and meets community expectations.~~

~~The bill includes amendments to prohibit a person who is the subject of a domestic violence order from holding an explosives licence, contributing to this government's strategy to end domestic and family violence in Queensland by its support of the *Not Now, Not Ever* policy.~~

~~Further amendments will align Queensland with the national harmonisation process to achieve national consistency in explosives regulation.~~

~~The bill also amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. This act regulates workplace safety of the gas industry so that the act remains relevant and contemporary for workers in the gas sector and gives confidence to the community around issues of gas safety. The bill aligns gas safety laws with both mining and general workplace safety laws, modernises safety reporting requirements, clarifies definitions and introduces a new framework for managing operating plant that has been abandoned. A regulatory framework that is effective and up to date is important to meet industry and community expectations for competent safety regulators. The explosives and gas safety amendments in this bill achieve another milestone by the government to ensure that Queensland resources safety legislation is contemporary and effective.~~

~~Amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 are proposed to address minor issues in the overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. These amendments are technical and noncontroversial. The bill makes a range of minor amendments to the operational and technical provisions in each of the amended acts. These changes will ensure that the state's statute book remains up to date, effective and reflects contemporary drafting practices. I commend the bill to the House.~~

### **First Reading**

~~Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.21 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 State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee**

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.~~

### **Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date**

~~Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.21 pm): By leave, without notice: I move—~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136 the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report to the House on the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 April 2018.~~

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

~~Motion agreed to.~~

## **PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL**

## Message from Governor



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.22 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Plumbing and Drainage Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled-

A Bill for an Act about plumbing and drainage, and the licensing of plumbers and drainers, and to amend this Act, the Planning Act 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 February 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018.

## Introduction

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.22 pm): I present a bill for an act about plumbing and drainage, and the licensing of plumbers and drainers, and to amend this act, the Planning Act 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 and the acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport and Public Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018.

*Tabled paper:* Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to rise today to introduce the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. This bill will deliver a contemporary suite of plumbing and drainage laws which will meet industry and community expectations over the next decade. The bill also amends the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 to establish a mechanical services licence, including for medical gas. On 10 October last year I introduced this bill into the 55th Parliament, but following its dissolution the bill lapsed. The bill that I am introducing today is substantially the same as the one I introduced back in October, and as such so is my explanatory speech. However, three amendments have been made to this bill since its previous introduction which I will outline for the honourable members as part of my speech. These amendments are relatively minor in nature. This bill delivers on the third instalment of legislative reforms under the Queensland Building Plan, and with the introduction of the bill today the Palaszczuk government is delivering on an election commitment.

Most of us only think about plumbing when something goes wrong. As a result, we tend to underestimate the critical role that our plumbing laws play in protecting public health and safety and the environment. We expect the water that comes out of the taps in our kitchen and the plumbing in our bathroom to be safe and reliable. Our community has safe water and sanitation services because of the dedication of the licensed plumbers and drainers who install and maintain these critical services. As we move around our cities and urban areas going in and out of buildings, Queenslanders expect air-conditioning services to simply keep them comfortable and never pose a threat to their safety. We have that expectation because of the professional standards that are achieved by our air-conditioning industry. Some of the most critical times of our lives are when our loved ones are in hospital. Without knowing it, at that time we rely on the skills of professional gasfitters. These are the people who ensure that things like life-saving oxygen and anaesthesia are safely delivered to surgical theatres and recovery wards. This is something that Queenslanders often—and should—take for granted. Our aim is to keep it that way.

The new Plumbing and Drainage Bill will deliver a streamlined and contemporary regulatory framework that reduces red tape; it will deliver savings in time and money for people who are building

a home; it will deliver a contemporary and consistent penalty framework for offences; and it will deliver increased protections for consumers when purchasing and having plumbing products installed. Our plumbing reforms will promote savings in cost and time by reducing time frames for approving permits to commence certain plumbing work. Most home owners will be able to fast-track their application and obtain a permit to start work in just two business days, which is a reduction from the current 20 business days. The time frame for more complex projects such as multiunit residential and commercial buildings will be halved from 20 business days down to 10 business days. Faster approvals means faster construction. If you can start sooner you can finish the job sooner and move on to the next job. Queensland home owners could save an estimated \$640 in holding costs for a \$255,000 block by being able to commence plumbing work 18 days earlier. That said, Queenslanders can rest assured there will be no reduction in standards. There are no changes to the inspection process and all permit work will continue to be inspected by local government. The bill also provides greater deterrence for breaches of our important plumbing laws. There are increased penalties for unlicensed plumbing work and for offences that endanger health and safety.

The bill also amends the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 to establish a new licence for mechanical services and medical gas work. The licence will regulate mechanical services work in large or public buildings used by the general public and community such as hospitals, shopping centres, office blocks and other commercial buildings, residential apartment blocks and entertainment complexes, including aquaria. The licence will not have an impact on ordinary home owners. It will not cover class 1a buildings, meaning a single dwelling—for example, a detached house, townhouse or villa—or class 10 buildings, meaning a non-habitable building or structure; for example, a garage or shed. The licence has been designed to have no impact on our energy and resources industry and other industries such as manufacturing and processing.

The bill establishes exclusions from mechanical services work. This includes the installation of a single-head split system, gas work regulated under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety Act) 2004 or the manufacture of pipe or ducting. Poorly performed mechanical services work has the potential to cause significant health and safety issues in the community. Members of this place are well aware of the danger posed by legionella in commercial air-conditioning systems. In addition to dealing with public health risks such as legionnaire's disease in air-conditioning systems, the new mechanical services licence will address the serious risks posed by noncompliant medical gas installations. Members will recall the tragic incidents in 2016 at a New South Wales hospital where one infant died and other tragically suffered permanent brain damage as a result of mistakenly being administered nitrous oxide. It was later discovered that the medical gas system had been incorrectly installed. The loss suffered by those families is unimaginable and unfathomable. The changes will introduce formal qualifications and licensing requirements for medical gas work in Queensland to ensure that this work is performed by individuals who are suitably qualified.

The new mechanical services licence will be administered by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission as part of its ordinary business as Queensland's building industry regulator. There will be a period of transition before the new mechanical services licence commences. The transitional period will allow people who are currently unlicensed, including in the employ of a contractor licensee, to complete the necessary qualifications or demonstrate that they have the appropriate skills and experience to obtain a licence. This will allow the industry time to prepare for the changes and to transition to a new class of licence with limited disruption.

As I mentioned, since I first introduced the bill I have received further feedback from stakeholders. I am introducing a bill with some minor differences to the first one and I will canvass those now.

Part 7 of the 2017 bill contained provisions that related to QBCC investigators. They provided for matters such as the appointment, functions and powers of QBCC investigators. These provisions were originally included in the bill as they were needed to ensure the effective compliance and enforcement of the new Plumbing and Drainage Act. However, amendments to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 made by the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017 have established standardised provisions that relate to QBCC investigators and investigations. As these standardised provisions apply to the Plumbing and Drainage Act, part 7 can be omitted. The omission of part 7 has also resulted in a number of minor amendments to the bill. The commencement date in the bill has also been amended from 2 July 2018 to a date fixed by proclamation. This change ensures sufficient time for industry, local government and the community to prepare for the new Plumbing and Drainage Act.

Finally, the bill contains a minor amendment to insert the word 'not' in clause 78(2). This was omitted in error in the previous bill. This change will clarify the obligation on the owner of a premises

which discharges kitchen greywater in an unsewered area. Amendments in the bill will also ensure the safety and integrity of plumbing products, including those certified under the national WaterMark Scheme that are installed in our homes, our places of work and local shopping centres, for example. The bill complements the Palaszczuk government's nonconforming building product laws, providing the ability for government to act swiftly to prohibit WaterMark products, whether it be a kitchen mixer tap or a prefabricated bathroom module which is considered defective, not fit for purpose or poses a public health risk.

From the boardroom to the local pub, we have listened to feedback that has shaped, reformed and refined the bill. In conclusion, the reforms in the bill are responsive to the needs of business, small and large. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.29 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 Transport and Public Works Committee

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee.

### ~~Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date~~

~~**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136, the Transport and Public Works Committee report to the House on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill by 9 April 2018.~~

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

~~Motion agreed to.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.~~

## MOTION

### ~~Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders~~

~~**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—~~

~~That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, I be permitted to move at 5 pm today the motion for which I gave notice earlier today for the adoption of sessional orders for the 56th Parliament, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—~~

- ~~\* five minutes for each member, and~~
- ~~\* total debate time before question put: one hour.~~

~~The motion before us is to establish time frames around the debate we will have on the further sessional orders for the 56th Parliament. The moving and setting of time frames around a debate is not unusual and is certainly not new. When I was on the other side of this House I remember a number of times those opposite moved time frames around debates.~~

~~**Mr Bleijie:** Never!~~

~~**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. The Manager of Opposition Business actually did that with a straight face! The opposing of this motion by the opposition and a debate occurring around this matter will be further evidence of how much more efficient our parliament could be and should be. This debate will be an important debate, but it is also important that this House be given the opportunity to get on with the important business before it, including the introduction of bills and address-in-reply. There should be no fear in setting time frames for reasonable debates before this House. In fact, the whole~~