

~~At the outset, I was quite excited, given Mr Morrison's claims that they had 'invested at record levels to build the roads, railways, airports and energy infrastructure Australia needs for the future'. I thought, 'Here we go. There'll be something in this budget for growth in the south-west.' I even had my fingers crossed for improvements to some of our major highways in this area and maybe even a little bit of rail thrown in for good measure, but as the night wore on and as the budget 2018 documents were released and scrutinised, it would seem that there would be very little for my communities.~~

~~I start with the obvious elephant in the room. Why will the federal government not help fund Cross River Rail? I am so tired of those opposite who disparage Cross River Rail as some inner-city, lofty vehicle that only Labor members and the member for Maiwar will use. Sadly, some of this rhetoric has stuck. For my electorate of Jordan, Cross River Rail has never been more necessary.~~

~~Anyone can see that Cross River Rail will more than double the capacity across the river and will allow for the expansion of our rail network. For my electorate of Jordan, this will mean not only higher frequency services like a train from Springfield Central station every five minutes but so much more. The additional capacity will also allow us to expand our rail network further into the key growth areas like Ripley and Flagstone. The extension of the current Springfield rail line through to Ripley and looping back to Ipswich will relieve the pressure currently being felt at the terminus at Springfield Central station. The Salisbury to Beaudesert passenger line with stations at Flagstone Central, New Beith and Greenbank is absolutely vital if we see the greater Flagstone region as a priority growth area.~~

~~Clearly, the federal government does not care about the outer metropolitan areas that are desperately seeking relief through public transport provision. Instead, Scott Morrison has decided in his infinite wisdom that \$300 million for the Brisbane Metro—a busway extension with some bendy buses, lauded by his LNP mate, Mayor Graham Quirk of Brisbane—is much more important. A project that two years later still does not even have a reference design for the bus is laughable, as exposed by council's deputy opposition leader, Councillor Jared Cassidy, in the *Sunday Mail* this week.~~


~~Federal Labor, on the other hand, have come to the show, pledging a commitment of \$2.24 billion to help fund Cross River Rail, because they know the importance of this project for the outer metropolitan growth seats like Jordan. The savings that our government can make with that support including over \$800 million in construction costs alone could be well utilised for critical road projects. I can think of a few in my electorate—the Centenary Highway and the Mount Lindesay Highway. Again, these are two highways that saw nothing, nada, from the federal government, except for a re-announcement of \$12.8 million for Mount Lindesay North Maclean works, not much compared to what the state Labor government has put in to date.~~

~~In fact, only in the last two weeks, the Palaszczuk government has announced an additional \$14 million for the Mount Lindesay Highway for South Maclean improvements. This funding has been made available through the Targeted Road Safety Program, where revenue raised from camera detected offences goes back into programs that make our roads safer through major infrastructure. Sadly, there was no such commitment or concerns from the federal government.~~

~~At the end of the night, I was left with a distinct feeling that those of us who live in the south-west growth corridors are the forgotten cousins. We are being punished for choosing to live out of the city centre. It left a bad taste in my mouth, and it was not from the burnt popcorn.➤~~

<MINISTERIAL AND OTHER OFFICE HOLDER STAFF AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (2.55 pm): <I present a bill for an act to amend the Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff Act 2010, the Parliament of >Queensland Act 2001 and the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

Tabled paper: Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The bill has four purposes, being to: amend the Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff Act 2010 to provide the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet with explicit power to conduct criminal history checks to assess the suitability of a person to be engaged in a ministerial office, the Office of the Leader of the Opposition or the office of other non-government

members; amend the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 to provide the Clerk of the Parliament with explicit power to conduct criminal history checks to assess the suitability of a person to be engaged in the Parliamentary Service, including in an electorate office; amend the plan details of the parliamentary precinct outlined in the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 following the parliament's agreement in 2017 to relinquish a small parcel of land which relates to the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project; and make minor amendments to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to correct and update certain references.

Late last year, the Clerk of the Parliament was made aware that a person with previous convictions had been employed by the Parliamentary Service. Following this incident, the Clerk instituted administrative procedures to provide for criminal history checking for Parliamentary Service staff, which includes electorate office staff. Given the serious nature of this incident, in December last year I asked the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to implement similar procedures to enable criminal history checking for ministerial office staff.

Currently, neither piece of legislation under which ministerial staff and Parliamentary Service staff are employed provide the director-general or the Clerk with explicit power to conduct criminal history checks on potential employees. As such, the administrative procedures that have been put in place by the director-general and the Clerk have been considered as interim measures pending legislative changes. These amendments will provide the director-general and the Clerk with the same legislative power to conduct criminal history checks as is currently provided under the Public Service Act 2008 to chief executive officers for Queensland government departmental employees.

The Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff Act 2010 provides for the employment of staff in the Office of the Leader of the Opposition and the employment of staff of a non-government member other than the Leader of the Opposition. It is proposed that the power of the director-general to seek a person's criminal history for the purpose of assessing their suitability for employment also covers opposition staff and staff of non-government members.

The bill provides safeguards for how a person's criminal history is sought, how the information can be used, who it can be shared with and how it is to be destroyed after use. All requests to obtain criminal history checks will require written consent from the person. With ministerial and opposition staff, it will be necessary for the director-general to be able to disclose criminal history information received from the Police Commissioner about a person to the Premier or the Leader of the Opposition. This will ensure that they can make an informed decision as to whether they should recommend the person to the director-general for employment.

028

Similarly with staff in the Office of the Speaker or in electorate offices, it will be necessary for the Clerk to be able to disclose criminal history information received with the Speaker or the member of the Legislative Assembly concerned so that the Speaker or the member can make an informed decision as to whether they should recommend the person to the Clerk for appointment. The bill, therefore, provides permission for such disclosures with strict confidentiality requirements. The amendments in the bill will enable the Clerk to continue to obtain a person's criminal history information from a private sector entity or from the Police Commissioner. The director-general has sought, and will continue to seek, criminal history information from the Police Commissioner.

There are a number of fairly procedural provisions contained in the bill. The bill amends the definition of 'parliamentary precinct' in the Parliamentary Service Act 1988 to include a new plan number. The new plan number results from a resurvey of the land following the former Speaker's agreement to realign boundaries around the Bicentennial Bikeway under the freeway, down near the Brisbane River. The former Speaker agreed to relinquish a small parcel of land in return for another small area of land to facilitate development of the Queen's Wharf project in Brisbane.

The bill also amends section 93 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to rectify an oversight from 2013 when the parliament transferred the provisions for the notification and availability of forms from the Statutory Instruments Act 1992 to the Acts Interpretation Act 1954. This bill provides an opportunity to correct this drafting oversight.

This bill also amends section 107 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 to update a reference to 'Votes and Proceedings' with 'Record of Proceedings' in its stead, an amendment that was overlooked in 2006 when the parliament initiated the *Record of Proceedings* and ceased the production of *Votes and Proceedings*. For accuracy, the act is being amended to reflect current practice.

In closing, it gives me pleasure to introduce a bill that, in particular, strengthens the processes for assessing the suitability of persons to be employed under the Ministerial and Other Office Holder Staff Act 2010 and the Parliamentary Service Act 1988. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (3.01 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 Economics and Governance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee. >

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**~~**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL (IMPLEMENTING STAGE 1 OF
BELCARRA) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**~~~~**Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**~~

~~Resumed from p. 1117, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe~~

~~That the bills be now read a second time.~~

~~ **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.01 pm), continuing: Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you and, of course, the member for Surfers Paradise for the chance to continue my speech. The LNP then questioned the validity of a ban on developers, the very same ban that the High Court affirmed as valid in *McCloy v New South Wales*, and I table the summary judgement for the members of the committee opposite.~~

~~*Tabled paper:* Statements from the High Court regarding *McCloy and Ors v State of New South Wales & Anor* [2015] HCA 34 dated 7 October 2015 and *Unions NSW and Ors v State of New South Wales* [2013] HCA 58, dated 18 December 2013.~~

~~Then, ridiculously, in the same breath they put forward amendments to include a new class of donors that the High Court had rejected in *Unions New South Wales v New South Wales*. It is a farce that the LNP could seriously put forward to this House exactly what Mr MacSporran considered and rejected. In explaining his decision, he said—~~

~~That is the last thing that we wanted to recommend something that was going to be knocked over in the High Court. That is just a waste of everyone's time. You could not ignore those High Court cases.~~

~~It seems the LNP is quite happy to ignore the High Court.~~


~~The member for Toowoomba South also misled the House in tabling the explanatory documents. In them he asserted, 'The CCC's Belcarra uncovered undeclared union donations to a Gold Coast mayoral candidate.' This is not true. How do we know this? Because Mr MacSporran addressed this issue directly by saying—~~

~~The union, as required as a third party donor, had filled out the declaration form and disclosed their donations to various candidates quite properly, accurately and in a timely way.~~

~~Mr MacSporran went on to make the point 100 per cent, which seems to have been missed by committee members on the other side—~~

~~The union had done nothing wrong other than to ... it had donated and disclosed it.~~

~~Who asked that question? It was none other than the member for Toowoomba South. He should apologise for misleading the House. These bills, which have been cognated, further account for transparency and confidence in the democracy of Queensland. I commend the bills to the House. >~~

~~ **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.03 pm): <The first thing I would like to say, unfortunately, is that I am disappointed that two important bills have been cognated for today's debate. >Under our new standing orders, that virtually means there are only five minutes per bill in which to speak. The committee has spent a lot over time and effort on these bills and a lot of people have had~~