



Speech by

**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

Hansard Tuesday, 13 April 2010

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Justice System Reforms**

**Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.15 am): I also welcome parishioners from the Holland Park Central Uniting Church and thank them for the mighty work they do in the Greenslopes electorate, particularly their tour leader, Mr Barry Smith.

The Bligh government is a government of reform and, in November last year, we released a draft bill to reform Queensland's civil and criminal justice system. The draft bill was prepared in response to the wide-ranging review of our justice system conducted by the honourable Martin Moynihan AO QC. Since the draft bill was released last November, the government has engaged in detailed and broad-ranging consultation, particularly with the legal profession, on the proposed reforms.

I am pleased to inform the House that those consultations are now complete, and today I intend introducing a revised Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill into parliament. The revised bill reflects the outcomes of our consultation and acknowledges the complexities and the importance of the proposed reforms. As a result of our proposed changes, victims will see justice done sooner, prosecutors and courts will be able to focus on more complex matters, witnesses will benefit from fewer court appearances and defendants will wait less time for trial. I will expand further on the reforms later today during my second reading speech. Consistent with the recommendations of Mr Moynihan's review, the government is now embarking on the second stage of our legislative reform process based on the report's findings.

Today I am pleased to announce the next phase of the reform process. The government has developed a discussion paper that outlines the second stage of reforms that we intend to undertake. The next stage will see an overhaul of legislation to consolidate, modernise and streamline criminal procedures and processes. I table the government's public discussion paper, 'Criminal justice procedure in Queensland.'

*Tabled paper:* Discussion paper titled 'Criminal Justice Procedure in Queensland', Department of Justice and Attorney-General [2038].

The discussion paper contains a proposed framework for a new criminal justice procedure act for Queensland. It invites general feedback on this framework and the reform process, as well as raising some specific questions, such as consequential issues and other reform opportunities to provide increased efficiency and flexibility for Queensland courts and improved access to justice for Queenslanders. I encourage all honourable members, the legal profession, courts and the community to be involved in this consultation process.

The Bligh government is committed to responding to emerging challenges and making decisions that help build a safe, modern and progressive Queensland. Change is ongoing and inevitable, and the Bligh government will continue to ensure that our justice system responds to and reflects a changing Queensland. These reforms are part of a broad, structured and staged reform agenda that will modernise and enhance the justice system in our state.