




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

Record of Proceedings, 27 March 2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Work Health and Safety Regulation

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.56 am): As members will recall, the Palaszczuk government commissioned the best practice review of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland following the tragic fatalities at Dreamworld and an Eagle Farm construction site in 2016. As a community we are all deeply affected by terrible incidents such as these, and I once again express my sincere condolences to those families who have experienced the traumatic loss of a loved one through a workplace incident. We must do all we can to ensure such tragedies are never repeated. The best practice review included recommendations on improvements to safety in the amusement device industry and the establishment of the new independent Work Health and Safety Prosecutor. The Palaszczuk government has delivered on these key recommendations.

New regulations will come into effect from 1 May through changes to the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 that will improve health and safety standards in the transportable ride and theme park industry. The new requirements will include: major inspections of all rides operating in Queensland by qualified engineers every 10 years; improved competency and training of ride operators and requiring them to be clearly identified as the competent operator of the ride; proper recording of inspections, maintenance and operator competency through logbooks for every ride operating in Queensland; and a new comprehensive safety case and licensing system for major amusement parks. Restoring and maintaining public confidence in theme parks and the amusement ride sector is critical for the community and will have significant positive benefits for the economy.

We have made these changes before the current coronial process is finalised because we are prioritising safety. These changes have been made in consultation with all industry stakeholders and the Coroner has also been informed. We await the outcome of the coronial inquest and, if further recommendations are made to enhance safety in the industry, we will examine them closely and make further amendments as required.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Aaron Guilfoyle as Queensland's first independent Work Health and Safety Prosecutor, commencing on 18 March 2019. Mr Guilfoyle will lead a new independent statutory office focused on workplace health and safety and electrical safety prosecutions. He is a former assistant director of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions based in North Queensland and has extensive experience in complex regulatory prosecutions in the maritime safety industry. Health and safety will always be a priority for the Palaszczuk government. I welcome the new amusement device regulations and the new position of Work Health and Safety Prosecutor.