

~~from the new bridges. In addition to planning that is starting right away, congestion levels will be eased by the reinstatement of two lanes and the raising of the speed limit from 40 kilometres an hour to 60 kilometres an hour, which is now possible because of the bridges being replaced.~~

~~Several companies have today contacted the member for Mackay to thank her appropriately for her strong advocacy and commitment to this project. I might add that after three years of not delivering, of inaction, of dithering from the opposition, the member for Mackay has delivered in only five months as the new member for Mackay. I congratulate her on being such an effective member. The productivity enhancing project is backed by Mackay Regional Council Mayor, Deirdre Comerford, Mackay Sugar, Zarb Road Transport, Northern Stevedoring Services and Puma Energy.~~

~~This is a government that is getting on with the job of planning for stage 1 of the Mackay ring road, which will have a total cost of \$560 million, with \$112 million from state government, the Palaszczuk government. We will be creating more than 600 jobs in Mackay and for Central Queenslanders. It is an important piece of infrastructure that will reduce hazardous loads in the city centre and alleviate traffic congestion. It is part of our QTRIP, our four year forward funding program for roads in Queensland. I might add that that is a program that was cut by the previous administration to the tune of \$200 million each and every year they were in government, something that the mayors of this state complain about to me. Every time I go out into regional Queensland I hear this back from the mayors of Queensland about the cuts to roads under the previous government.~~

~~This commitment is part of our commitment to major projects and roads funding right across Queensland: the Bruce Highway upgrade, the Warrego Highway upgrade, the Cape York region package~~

~~Ms Jones interjected:~~

~~Mr BAILEY: Importantly, as the Minister for the Commonwealth Games said, there is \$160 million for Gold Coast roads for the Commonwealth Games and, of course, \$47 million for the Coomera interchange \$47 million that we delivered in six weeks that the previous government did not deliver in three years. I congratulate the member for Mackay on achieving so much in five months.~~

### **Car Registration**

~~Mr KRAUSE: My question is to the Minister for Main Roads. I note that the minister has publicly supported the government's hike in car registration, including during a disallowance motion in this House. Can the minister explain how the hike in car registration of 2½ times the inflation rate is not an increase, as claimed by the Labor member for Bundaberg?~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister. Two minutes.~~


~~Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Beaudesert for his question and remind him that in his government's last budget, that is exactly what was in the forward estimates. It was their policy. I see that there is a bit of pivoting going on here and a bit of fancy footwork, but it was in their forward estimates. Not only was it in their last budget, but it was also in the midyear economic forecast. The LNP can pretend all they like, but the fact is that it was their policy.~~

~~Let's also deal with a couple of furphies. The opposition is wrong when they say that we are the most expensive state. When it comes to the annual cost of motoring, Queensland is not the most expensive in this country. We have a very strong record. In terms of small vehicles, we are the third cheapest in the country when it comes to the annual cost of motoring. I am very happy to talk about the cost of living. Look at the cost of living under this government: electricity prices this year are on average down, 0.5 per cent; electricity costs for small business, down 1.7 to 3½ per cent. We have seen the electricity costs for farmers and irrigators, 0 per cent. When it comes to water costs this year, six out of the 11 South-East Queensland councils are down and for those with an increase, it is a very minimal increase. What we have seen is the end of the double digit electricity price rises under the LNP 43 per cent over three years. We are seeing the cost of living coming under control under this government after incredible increases under the LNP. When it comes to this budget, we will see that continuing. We will see good management there. We will see the cost of living steadying under this government, whether it is electricity, water or otherwise.~~

~~Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time for questions has expired.~~

## **TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (EXTENSION OF SMOKING BANS) AMENDMENT BILL**

## Introduction

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.30 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Regulation 2010 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Ambulance Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015.

*Tabled paper:* Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this bill arises out of the need to continue the rollout of smoking reduction steps which were undertaken by the former LNP government. These extensions to smoking bans are good—indeed, essential—for the health of all Queenslanders. Everyone agrees that smoking is an addictive behaviour that has dire health consequences. The alarming facts include the following: each year more than 3,400 Queenslanders die from smoking related illnesses. The Qld Cancer Council estimates that smoking accounts for approximately \$6.1 billion every year in health costs resulting from 36,000 hospitalisations, lost productivity and premature deaths in Queensland alone. Current smokers will die on average of 10 years earlier than nonsmokers, with mortality rates increasing substantially with the increased intensity of smoking. These facts alone should be enough to spur us into action to do more to reduce the prevalence of smoking and passive smoking in Queensland and on Queenslanders. Evidence shows that one in 10 people who die from smoking related diseases have never smoked themselves. This bill is building on the accomplishments of the previous LNP government and the changes made in 2014 to the Tobacco and other Smoking Products Act.

I am pleased to summarise these measures. Electronic cigarettes will be subject to the same laws as regular cigarettes so that from 1 January 2015 electronic cigarettes—known as e-cigarettes and defined under Queensland law as personal vaporisers—and their related components are subject to the same laws as cigarettes under the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998. As such, e-cigarettes cannot be used in existing no-smoking indoor and outdoor places; sold to children under 18 years of age; or advertised, promoted or displayed at retail outlets. These efforts were designed to prevent the normalization of smoking and the appearance of smoking by using these devices.

Our LNP government also moved to ban smoking at all Queensland state and nonstate schools and for five metres beyond their boundaries. The same restriction will apply to all Queensland public and private hospital and health facilities. This bill intends to extend that to all state government buildings.

That was not enough though, Madam Deputy Speaker, and in addition to these legal changes the former LNP government also launched two antismoking campaigns: firstly, What is stopping you from quitting?, a \$1.65 million new advertising campaign targeted at 25 to 44 year olds seeking to further reduce Queensland's smoking rates; secondly, Your future isn't pretty if you smoke, a \$1.5 million campaign aimed at young females and the impact of smoking on them.

The primary purpose of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 is to continue the move towards reducing the impact of smoking and to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. This bill aims to protect the community from the scientifically proven effects of passive smoking. I believe that strong tobacco legislation is one element of a multistrategy approach for reducing smoking rates and therefore can be achieved with the following amendments (1) banning smoking within five metres of all State government buildings; (2) banning smoking at all transport waiting areas and pedestrian malls; (3) banning smoking at public swimming pools and skate parks; and (4) banning the sale of cigarettes at pop-up or temporary sales venues.

In detail then, this bill proposes to ban smoking within five metres of entrances to Queensland government buildings which are occupied either wholly or in part, including this Parliament complex, Queensland courts, public service bodies and Queensland government departments. The negative impact of passive smoking is also well documented, and this will aid in reducing the exposure to second-hand smoke of government workers and visitors who enter state and government buildings.

A statewide ban on smoking at public transport waiting points and pedestrian malls also adds to the reduction in exposure of passive smoking to Queenslanders who are inadvertently exposed to passive and second-hand cigarette smoke. Under 2010 legislation local councils had the ability to ban smoking in these areas, but this led to inconsistencies across the state. A statewide ban provides a clear, consistent and enforceable message about passive smoking. This bill intends to include ferry terminals and taxi ranks in the ban.

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Queensland is not alone in this measure: New South Wales currently prohibits smoking at all public transport waiting areas; both South Australia and Victoria prohibit smoking in covered transport waiting areas; while Tasmania is the only jurisdiction with a statewide ban on smoking in all pedestrian malls. This is a necessary step in the struggle to reduce smoking and passive smoking in Queensland. Thirdly, a statewide ban on smoking at public swimming pools and skate parks is intended to stop young people taking up smoking at an early age.

Lastly, this bill seeks to ban the sale of cigarettes at 'pop-up' or temporary sales outlets. Tobacco companies market their products to young people by using temporary stands that offer cigarettes for sale at major outdoor festivals and events. It is important to prevent advertising and access to this age group, as the majority of smokers make the transition from experimental to regular smoking during their early twenties. Queensland is the only state without a legal mechanism to prevent the sale of cigarettes at pop-up outlets, and this bill seeks to amend this unacceptable anomaly.

While the prevalence of Queenslanders who smoke has decreased by 26 per cent over the decade since 2004, this rate of decrease has slowed over recent years. New measures are now required to continue historical rates of progress, and therefore I propose these mentioned amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to strengthen smoking bans in Queensland. I have already outlined some of the alarming statistics which reflect on the impact that smoking has on Queenslanders generally; however, due to the fact that smoking is such a dreadfully unhealthy activity, I will outline a few more statistics on the impact that smoking has on the individual.

Approximately one-third of smoking related deaths were of Queenslanders of working age. We know that tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and health inequality in Queensland. We also know that smoking is known to cause cancers of the lung, mouth, throat, oesophagus, pharynx, larynx, tongue, lips, salivary glands, stomach, cervix, vulva, penis, kidney, liver, pancreas, bladder, and blood. In addition to being a leading cause of cancer, smoking is also linked to an extensive range of serious and life-threatening diseases such as heart disease and stroke.

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is for these reasons that the importance of this bill cannot be underestimated. I draw the attention of the chamber to comments made in an interview yesterday by Cancer Council Queensland spokesperson Katie Clift in relation to questions on the measures in this bill. Ms Clift said that the laws will be a strong step towards a smoke-free future for Queensland and that it is a global benchmark bill. It sets, in terms of tobacco control, a new standard in public health. Let me repeat: a benchmark bill; a global benchmark.

This bill does set high standards, but at the end of the day it is a bill that is designed to do three things: provide an incentive for smokers to cease smoking; to assist those who do not smoke to not be affected by passive smoking; and thirdly, to incentivise young people not to start smoking at all. There are members of this House, including myself, who have been or are current smokers. There are many people in this House and across the state who will suffer as a result of smoking in the past. What we can do in this chamber to assist those who are either in the throes of, about to, or not yet smoking is to not take it up, cease it and not be impacted by passive smoking. I urge the members of this House to support this bill.

### First Reading

**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.39 am): 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 and Ambulance Services Committee

**MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Ambulance Services Committee.

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date



**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (11.39 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Health and Ambulance Services Committee report to the House on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 by 16 October 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ~~MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST~~

### ~~Ravenshoe, Community Recovery; Budget~~

 ~~Mr SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.40 am): At the outset I join with the Premier, who this morning extended our thoughts and prayers and paid condolences to the families involved, and indeed the entire community of Ravenshoe, in what was a most tragic event only recently. As a former minister for health in Queensland I felt a great degree of pride as I watched as our experts, our very dedicated staff, were able to render the necessary assistance to members of that community. I acknowledge the work of the paramedics and all emergency services and also the work that will be done in community recovery. I think we need to be cognisant of the fact that for many people the recovery journey will take not just weeks or months but years, as is the case with situations involving horrific burns and other significant injuries.~~

~~Whilst I have not had the opportunity to travel to that community I was planning to earlier on but out of respect to the community I did not travel, as my visit would have aligned with a funeral—my deputy, John Paul Langbroek, certainly did subsequently. He met with people who were involved in the recovery process and offered them our support for what the various community recovery personnel were doing. I have spoken to people who have been involved in that. I have also spoken to the member for Dalrymple with regard to those particular circumstances.~~

~~I now turn my attention to matters more contemporary to today. Today we will see the first budget brought down by this government. We have witnessed a government that is completely and absolutely clueless in its intent. It was elected without a plan and it has been trying to put together a plan over the past five months it has been in government. Indeed, only two or three weeks ago it repatriated itself to a getaway to try to develop a plan, but we still have not seen a plan from this government.~~

~~We have seen some sort of conjuring artistry from the Treasurer, who has indicated to us that he will be able to pay down debt and return the budget to surplus while creating jobs, building infrastructure and delivering front-line services without cutting anything, without taxing more, without selling assets and without borrowing more. If he is able to achieve such a thing then he would truly be a remarkable magician.~~

~~Mr Cripps: Miraculous.~~

~~Mr SPRINGBORG: As the honourable member for Hinchinbrook says, it would be miraculous. It would be a miracle, because no one has been able to do that. If you speak to businesspeople who are very competent in managing their resources—their inputs versus their investments and outputs—you will realise that this is something that even the best businesspeople in Queensland, Australia and the world have not been able to master. I think people in the community who on a day-to-day basis are very good and very effective at running their household budgets would also struggle to conjure such magic as the Treasurer is promising to the people of Queensland today.~~

~~We are seeing the real consequences and real dangers of having a government that is completely inexperienced, that does not have a plan. Nowhere did they mention in the lead-up to the last state election that they would be, in effect, raiding public servants' superannuation or long service leave entitlements. They said that we did not need to sell assets because they had a plan to pay down debt, that they had a plan to return the government books in Queensland to surplus, to build infrastructure and to deliver jobs without negatively impacting upon front-line services and without borrowing. Now we know that that was an absolute fraud. Their whole mantra has fallen apart. They have been trying to piece together a way to keep the government running as a consequence of this 'miracle' which we know was never able to be truly put into effect. The Treasurer's magic pudding is all but coming apart today.~~

~~I do not believe it is fair that public servants in Queensland are the ones who need to be concerned about this. Going back to the days of previous National and National Liberal government in the 1980s, it was a fundamental pride of Queensland that we were the Australian state that could always pay. If all of our public servants decided to resign or retire on one day, we could fully fund all of the liabilities with regard to superannuation and long service leave. Indeed, one has to acknowledge the work of Keith De Lacy, David Hamill and others who stuck to that principle. Fast forward to a Labor~~