

HOUSING, BIG BUILD AND MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE

Report No 4, 57th Parliament, April 2024

Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 15 February 2024, the Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (the Bill) was introduced into the Legislative Assembly.

After introduction, the Bill was referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee (Committee) for consideration. On 12 April 2024, the Committee tabled its report (No. 4, 57th Parliament) on the Bill.

The Queensland Government response to the recommendations made by the Committee is provide below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Bill be passed.

Queensland Government response: Noted

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and notes the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that amendments to the *Planning Regulation 2017* which support a decriminalised sex work framework, reflect the principle that the regulation of sex work, including land use and planning applications related to sex work businesses, be no more and no less than for other legal businesses.

Queensland Government response: Supported

The Queensland Government thanks the Committee for its consideration of the Bill and appreciates the Committee's recommendation that the amendments to the Planning Regulation 2017 support the decriminalised sex work framework in ensuring that as a land use activity, planning applications related to sex work businesses, be no more and no less than for other legal businesses.

To address this recommendation, the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW) has been working with the Department of

Justice and Attorney-General and Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel to ensure the drafting of the Planning Amendment Regulation provides for sex work premises as either a home based business or a shop.

Regulation provisions will be progressed providing greater certainty and consistency for all home-based business across the State.