

~~communities in the Boyne, Pioneer and Barron water resource plan areas. In the coming few years communities will also benefit from the improved review process in the Warrego, Moonie, Condamine, Balonne, Border, and well as Georgina and Diamantina catchments. Changes to the water resource planning framework have been designed to be consistent with the Commonwealth Water Act 2007 and the National Water Initiative.~~

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~~The bill also makes other changes to the Water Act aimed at streamlining processes, including simplifying the notification of works process for works and water use information and making it easier for category 2 water authorities to transfer to local governments or alternative structures. The Water Act will also be amended to allow the Queensland Water Commission to recover government seed funding through the levy on petroleum tenure holders. This will support the vital work the commission is doing to assess and protect groundwater as the coal seam gas industry expands. These amendments are consistent with announcements last year that will ensure that industry pays for the petroleum and gas water functions undertaken by the commission.~~

~~This bill also implements a number of crucial wild river initiatives. It amends the Water Act to increase Indigenous economic development and recognise Indigenous access to water in the Gulf of Carpentaria wild rivers. This builds on arrangements currently in place for Indigenous water reserves in Cape York and is a clear example of the government's commitment to realise sustainable economic development in wild river areas. A similar process to that used in the cape has been used to determining sustainable Indigenous water reserves for the gulf wild rivers. Traditional owners have called for these Indigenous water allocations and I am pleased Queensland is leading Australia in this regard. As supporting information for the forthcoming debate on this amendment, I would like to table the gulf resource operations plan amendment.~~

Tabled paper: Department of Environment and Resource Management: Gulf Resource Operations Plan Amendment.

~~The bill also amends the Wild Rivers Act 2005 to allow the minister to establish Indigenous reference groups under the Wild Rivers Act. This implements a key reform announced by the government earlier this year and will ensure greater engagement with Indigenous communities in wild river declaration processes. Indigenous reference groups will provide advice on the views of traditional owners and the Indigenous community on the wild rivers program and declaration proposals. This will include feedback on wild river management areas, natural values of the river system and policy options set out in any declaration proposals. They will also provide advice on the future development aspirations of the traditional owners and the Indigenous community, including how those aspirations might interact with a wild river declaration.~~

~~The bill also amends the Wild Rivers Act to recognise the 40 strong wild river rangers program in legislation, which is a key government commitment that responds to the request of traditional owners. The bill also amends the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act to provide for a property development plan under the act to be recognised as a property development plan in a wild river high preservation area. This will make it easier for Indigenous communities to get project approval in wild river areas.~~

~~These are crucial changes to the management and planning of water resources in Queensland. They advance the government's agenda of increasing efficiencies in the system and implementing wild rivers policy going forward. I commend the bill to the House.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Mr Gibson, adjourned.~~

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS NETWORK BILL

First Reading

 **Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Health) (2.43 p.m.): I present a bill for an act to provide for the delivery of public sector health services and other health services in Queensland and to make amendments to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 for particular purposes and consequential amendments of the acts mentioned in part 15 and schedule 1. I present the explanatory notes, and 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.

Tabled paper: Health and Hospitals Network Bill.

Tabled paper: Health and Hospitals Network Bill, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

 **Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Health) (2.43 p.m.): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Health and Hospitals Network Bill 2011. Today I introduce into parliament laws that will change the face of health in Queensland. The Health and Hospitals Network Bill amounts to a massive shake-up. It will break up what has been known as Queensland Health. With this bill the Queensland government is continuing in our commitment to provide Queenslanders with more health services sooner and closer to home. The bill is a demonstration of this government's commitment to national reform—reform that will deliver more beds, more surgery and faster emergency care to Queenslanders. This is great news for our state, but our commitment to reform does not end here.

This government is committed to taking this opportunity to build a health system that is able to meet the challenges of the future. The challenges are not small. In June 2009 the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission delivered its final report following 16 months of consultation and research. The report is sobering reading. The commission found that while the Australian health system has great strengths it is under growing pressure. The challenges include large increases in demand for and expenditure on health care, unacceptable inequities in health outcomes and access to services, growing concerns about safety and quality, workforce shortages and inefficiency. In Queensland, each of those challenges is compounded by the fact that health services must be delivered across a geographical area six times the size of Victoria.

Despite this, our commitment to delivering the care Queenslanders need closer to home is unwavering. To achieve this goal we need: a system that, in every single instance, puts the needs of patients first; a system that values the local knowledge of our skilled and hardworking front-line staff; a system that gives each and every local community a say in their local health services; and a system that ensures that every taxpayer dollar spent is spent wisely and well. Our commitment to reform will stand, irrespective of the final shape of the new National Health Reform Agreement, which has not yet been signed and is due to be considered by COAG at its next meeting.

The changes are significant. They include new funding models that create a direct and transparent link between dollars spent and services delivered, and establish national benchmarks for prices for services. These new funding models will be backed up by new performance reports at the local level. The public will be able to see what funds the Commonwealth and states are contributing to public health and hospital services in their area, what is delivered and how well when compared to similar networks across Queensland and Australia.

Initially, in Queensland the most visible change will be the establishment of 17 local health and hospital networks, as announced by the Premier in December 2010. These networks will deliver the same range of services as Queensland Health's existing health service districts and no disruption to services is anticipated during the implementation of the new arrangements. However, the networks will be managed differently, each being an autonomous statutory body run by its own expert governing council. Members of the governing council will be appointed following a transparent and public recruitment process. Shortly, I will be calling for expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons in the network areas, including persons with financial, legal and human resource expertise, as well as persons expert in the areas of governance and the delivery of clinical services.

The governing council will be responsible to the Minister for Health and to the community for the performance of the network. The governing council will enter into a service agreement with the director-general of Queensland Health that will identify the services to be provided, the standard to which they are to be provided and the funding to be made available. By emphasising local accountability and decision making, it is expected that the new networks will have both flexibility and incentive to innovate and to pursue quality and efficiency. The new networks will also be required to have strong clinician, consumer and community engagement processes in place to ensure that their decisions are responsive to local needs and priorities.

Queensland Health will focus on system-wide policy and planning to ensure state-wide consistency of service access and quality across the state. The department's other critical role will be to support the networks to deliver the highest standard of care to patients. The Health and Hospitals Network Act 2011 will enable these changes and is proposed to replace the current Health Services Act 1991 from 1 July 2012.

Queensland Health began consultation on these reforms over 12 months ago. In that time, Queensland Health has held more than 60 consultations across the state. Nearly 3,000 people have been directly consulted, including community representatives, consumer groups, clinical opinion leaders, unions, other health service providers and staff working in our health system. Our commitment to consult on these broad-ranging changes does not end with the introduction of this bill. On my request, Queensland Health has made clear to our stakeholders, from staff and their unions to clinical leaders and local communities, that we want them to be part of continued discussion on these important reforms. We are committed to getting this right and that is only possible with the continued involvement of those groups. That is why we are also working with Health Consumers Queensland to build the best possible model for local communities to have their say in how their local health services are run.

Given the magnitude of the reforms, I have also requested that the director-general of Queensland Health establish a strategic advisory group comprising eminent persons in a range of disciplines relevant to the reforms we are progressing. This group will add their expertise and experience to help me ensure that, at every stage of implementing these reforms, we drive improvements in our system to deliver the best possible health care to Queenslanders.

The bill also amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to provide for a ban of smoking product displays in retail settings. These amendments will align Queensland with other states and territories and give effect to the government's public commitment to support a recommendation of the Social Development Committee in its 2010 report, *Chronic diseases in Queensland*. The amendments will provide certainty to retailers and tobacco companies, who have been preparing for the display bans in Queensland, and will meet the government's commitment to introduce those display bans by mid-2011.

Public health in Queensland is changing and, through the reforms outlined in this bill, the state government is continuing our commitment to provide Queenslanders with more health services sooner and closer to home. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Gibson, adjourned.

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~~APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL~~

~~APPROPRIATION BILL~~

~~COMMUNITY AMBULANCE COVER LEVY REPEAL AND REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading (Cognate Debate)~~

~~Resumed from p. 1965, on motion of Mr Fraser~~

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

 ~~Mr SEENEY~~ (Callide—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the consideration of the appropriation bills and the associated bill regarding the ambulance levy, or the ambulance tax as it was infamously known. I begin by congratulating the member for Clayfield and shadow Treasurer on the address that he made, laying out the LNP's official response to the government's budget.

~~Ms Nolan:~~ What an embarrassment. It is the opposition leader who speaks after lunch.

~~Mr SEENEY:~~ I thank the members of the government who have been offering me advice for the last two days about what I should do and I note for the record that most of them are not here. I know I am not allowed to say that.

~~Ms Nolan~~ interjected.

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER~~ (Mr Elmes): Order!

~~Mr SEENEY:~~ It typifies the approach of government members. They think they can say anything for the short term gain, say anything for the political purpose of the moment, and it means nothing. Their words are meaningless. What they say is meaningless, and that is demonstrated by the response here in the parliament this afternoon. It is complete and utter errant nonsense. The shadow Treasurer has a role to respond on behalf of the alternative government to the Treasurer. The Treasurer has a role to lay out the government's financial plan and the shadow Treasurer has a role to respond. That is the right and proper way.

~~Ms Nolan~~ interjected.

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:~~ Order! The Minister for Finance!

~~Mr SEENEY:~~ That is the right and proper way. I commend the shadow Treasurer for the financial plan that he outlined, for the response that he gave on behalf of the LNP this morning. On behalf of the LNP, the member for Clayfield and shadow Treasurer gave an address that can give hope to the people of Queensland, but there is some alternative.

~~Ms Nolan~~ interjected.

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:~~ The Minister for Finance will cease interjecting.

~~Mr SEENEY:~~ The member for Clayfield and shadow Treasurer gave the people of Queensland some hope that the incompetence they have seen from a government made up of ministers such as the