

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 2002

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Title of the Bill

Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2002.

Policy Objectives of the Bill

The objective of the *Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2002* is to provide for the establishment of parliamentary precincts for the conduct of sittings of the Parliament in locations other than Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

Reasons for the Policy Objectives of the Legislation

The Queensland Government has committed to holding Parliament once every term in a regional centre to improve access by the community to the Parliament. It is considered that democracy works better if people have access to the workings of the Parliament and it is recognised that not all Queensland citizens can travel to Parliament House in Brisbane.

If sittings are held in locations other than Parliament House, Brisbane, it is necessary that the existing powers of the Speaker under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* are available to ensure that security and order are able to be lawfully maintained in such locations.

Achieving the Policy Objectives of the Legislation

At present, the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* provides that a parliamentary precinct means all land and improvements within the land reserved for Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

The Bill has been prepared to amend sections 4, 29(3), 30(2)(b), and 30(3) of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*. These amendments will alter the definition of parliamentary precinct to enable a parliamentary precinct

to be established in a location other than Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane (by way of a gazettal notice), as well as remove some obsolete section references.

Administrative Cost

Implementation of the commitment to hold a Parliamentary sitting every term in a regional centre has financial implications.

Consistency with Fundamental Legislative Principles

The Bill is consistent with the fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

The Parliamentary Service was consulted on the Bill.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clause 1 sets out the short title of the Act.

Clause 2 states that the Act amends the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988*.

Clause 3(1) amends the definition of ‘employee’ in section 4 by removing an obsolete section reference.

Clause 3(2) amends the definition of ‘misconduct’ in section 4 by inserting a disjunctive in accordance with current drafting practices.

Clause 3(3) amends the definition of ‘parliamentary precinct’ in section 4 by reformatting the existing definition of parliamentary precinct to accommodate a further definition of a precinct.

Clause 3(4) amends the definition ‘parliamentary precinct’ by inserting a new section 4(b) which extends the definition of parliamentary precinct to allow order to be maintained at the precinct if the Parliament is sitting at a place other than Parliament House, George Street, Brisbane.

Clause 4 amends section 29(3) by removing an obsolete section reference.

Clause 5 amends sections 30(2)(b) and 30(3) by replacing an obsolete section reference and inserting a definition of ‘transitional provision’ for the new reference.