

# Bill Tilley MP

## Member for Benambra



### THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT – 11-13 OCTOBER 2011

*The Parliament of Victoria consists of three parts, the **Legislative Assembly** (Lower House), the **Legislative Council** (Upper House) and the **Crown** (represented by the Governor). All three parts must agree to any new law.*

#### **NEW BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:**

##### **Electricity Industry Amendment (Transitional Feed-In-Tariff Scheme) Bill**

This Bill sets up a new Transitional Feed-in Tariff Scheme from 1 January 2012 to replace the current premium solar feed-in tariff scheme, recognising changes in this market and renewing the Coalition Government's commitment to supporting alternative energy use.

##### **Public Interest Monitor Bill**

This Bill continues the Coalition Government's strong commitment to improving transparency and accountability in the Victorian public sector. It is part of a range of measures which have been introduced or will be introduced in the near future. The Public Interest Monitor will be an independent person who will provide increased oversight of the accountability and integrity of law enforcement bodies and assist judges, magistrates and tribunal members, appearing at hearings, making submissions in court and tribunal matters on the application of the public interest.

##### **Sex Work and Other Acts Amendment Bill**

This Bill improves the monitoring and enforcement regime regulating sex workers. It continues the ban on street prostitution, enhances the role of Victoria Police in investigating and prosecuting owners of illegal brothels, tightens restrictions on persons with serious criminal backgrounds entering the industry and broadens the scope of confiscation of assets legislation for those who profit from the industry illegally.

##### **Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation Bill**

The Bill implements an election commitment to establish the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation, a new organisation with a mandate to reduce the prevalence and severity of problem gambling and to encourage responsible gambling in Victoria. It recognises the tension between the Government being both the regulator of gambling and the provider of assistance for problem gamblers by setting up a new independent entity to better tackle problem gambling and consider innovative approaches to help people and their families..

##### **Water Legislation Amendment (Water Infrastructure Charges) Bill**

This Bill takes account of changes to Federal legislation relating to water management, and will permit the Essential Services Commission to regulate basin water charges in the future, in an attempt to reduce the regulatory burden on water users and allow the local knowledge and expertise of water management to be better used to the benefit of water users, especially farmers.

## **OTHER BILLS BEING DEBATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:**

### **Sentencing Amendment (Community Corrections Reform) Bill**

This Bill continues the Government's major sentencing reforms and replaces a range of community-based sentences with a single, flexible, Community Corrections Order.

### **Transport Legislation Amendment (Public Transport Development Authority) Bill**

This Bill establishes a new Public Transport Development Authority as a single coordinating authority for all metropolitan and regional train, tram and bus services – focussed on putting the customer first.

## **NEW BILL THAT WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **Children's Services Amendment Bill**

This Bill responds to changes to Federal legislation to ensure that children's services are not required to operate under two regulatory regimes (State and national). It continues in the tradition of a robust and high quality framework for Victorian children's services, which were used as the model for the national law.

## **BILLS THAT PASSED THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND WILL NOW BE DEBATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:**

### **Children, Youth and Families Amendment (Youth Justice Facilities) Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to improve the management and security of the Parkville youth justice precinct.

### **Crimes and Domestic Animals Acts Amendment (Offences and Penalties) Bill**

This bill strengthens the law by creating new offences for a person who fails to control a dangerous, menacing, or restricted breed dog and that dog endangers the life of, or causes the death of, another person. This follows up the urgent Act of Parliament enacted earlier this month ending the amnesty on restricted breed dogs.

### **Energy Legislation Amendment (Bushfire Mitigation and Other Matters) Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to adopt a recommendation of the Bushfire Royal Commission to improve the obligations of energy companies to mitigate bushfire risk.

### **Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to adopt a recommendation of the Bushfire Royal Commission to improve the operation of emergency services and better coordinate them in cases of major emergency in Victoria.

### **Extractive Industries (Lysterfield) Amendment Bill**

This Bill improves the regulation of the Boral quarry at Lysterfield and improves environmental outcomes at the quarry site.

### **Gambling Regulation Amendment (Licensing) Bill**

This Bill gives the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation the power to apply a public interest test to certain raffles and improves the licensing regime for gaming machines being introduced in line with the 2012 regulation model.

### **Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to establish a new, single integrated body to regulate liquor and gambling in Victoria.

## **BILLS PASSED BOTH HOUSES AND AWAITING ROYAL ASSENT:**

### **Commercial Arbitration Bill 2011**

This Bill repeals the *Commercial Arbitration Act 1984* to bring Victoria into line with model legislation being progressively passed by all States relating to commercial arbitration and seeks to restore Victoria as a suitable venue for dispute resolution.

### **Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Prohibition of Sale and Display of Cannabis Water Pipes) Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to make the sale of cannabis water pipes (commonly known as bongs) illegal in Victoria.

### **Electronic Transactions (Victoria) Amendment Bill**

This Bill improves the regime relating to contracts and other legal documents made by electronic means, including by using electronic signatures, and updates the law in line with international models to aid Victoria's status as a centre for international commerce.

### **Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 2011**

This Bill amends certain earth resources legislation and clarifies the role of the Department of Primary Industries in relation to geothermal exploration.

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