

# Bill Tilley MP

Member for Benambra



## THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT – 7-9 February 2012

Welcome to the 2012 Parliament Year.

I trust that you will continue to enjoy this publication after each sitting week.

If you would like extra copies or know of anyone that would like this sent to them, please do not hesitate to contact my office for additions to the mail list.

Also included now will be hansard transcripts of contributions made by me during debates.

### Members' Statements

The Standing Orders permit Members to make ninety second statements on any topic of concern. Members may use this opportunity to raise issues on behalf of their constituents or to note special achievements made by those they represent. A maximum of 15 speakers are able to speak during Members' Statements on Tuesday to Thursday.

### Adjournment Debate

At the conclusion of sittings, once the motion to adjourn the House has been proposed, Members have three minutes to raise an issue for consideration by Ministers. Members are only able to speak once each sitting day, and may use their allocated time to make a complaint, make a request or pose a query. Rules stipulate that the matter cannot be debated. At the end of these proceedings, the Minister responds to each item raised.

There are other opportunities for contribution during the sitting week which I will introduce to this publication at a later date. If you are interested in other contributions, you are able to search handsard at [www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au)

*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:

### **Building Amendment Bill**

This Bill will ensure that the Building Practitioners Board has jurisdiction to investigate disciplinary cases in certain circumstances where the registration of a building practitioner has already been suspended.

### **Carers Recognition Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to recognise, promote and value the role of carers and people in care relationships, including young carers, kinship and foster carers, and people providing support and assistance for someone with a mental or chronic illness, and those supporting ageing parents, the frail aged or a person with a disability.

For the first time, Victoria will have legislation that sets out clear expectations for organizations that engage with people in care relationships about how they should be treated.

## **City of Melbourne Amendment (Environmental Upgrade Agreements) Bill**

The bill will enhance the ability of the Melbourne City Council to expand its 1200 Buildings program by entering into environmental upgrade agreements, and makes related technical amendments.

An environmental upgrade agreement is a tripartite agreement between the Melbourne City Council, the owner of a non-residential building in the City of Melbourne and a lending body. Under such an agreement, the lending body advances funds to the building owner to finance approved environmental upgrades and the Council levies an environmental upgrade charge to recover the funds and repay the lending body.

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

### **Associations Incorporation Reform Bill**

This Bill repeals a 1981 Act and replaces it with a new, modern piece of legislation governing the incorporation of voluntary organisations and the regulation of other bodies known as incorporated associations, and makes provision relating to corporate governance and financial accountability.

### **Australian Consumer Law and Fair Trading Bill**

This Bill repeals old legislation relating to consumer protection and fair trading and provides for a model Australian Consumer Law to apply in Victoria, for the better protection of consumers and to clarify the rights and responsibilities of businesses. It continues the Government's focus on improving the legislative regime in this area.

### **Control of Weapons and Firearms Acts Amendment Bill**

This Bill create a new indictable offence for prohibited persons to possess, use or carry imitation firearms and provides for new rules relating to the minimum number of shooting events a person licensed to possess certain categories of handguns must participate in.

### **Wills Amendment (International Wills) Bill**

This Bill allows Victorian law to be brought into line with the International Wills Convention signed at Washington in 1973 to which Australia is a signatory, by adopting the convention's uniform law in relation to wills. This will help when cross-country or cross-border issues affect a will.

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

### **Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill**

This Bill continues the Coalition Government's reforms of how Victoria's emergency services are governed by continuing to strengthen the accountability chain of command, amends seven other Acts relating to emergency services and increases penalties for certain offences.

### **Freedom of Information Amendment (Freedom of Information Commissioner) Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to establish an independent Freedom of Information Commissioner. The Commissioner will review decisions by public sector agencies in response to request for documents and will handle complaints about how requests are handled. The Commissioner will also provide a public educative function, and guidance for agencies in how FOI procedures should be conducted. The Bill also establishes a new Accountability and Oversight Committee of Parliament which will generally oversee the Commissioner's office but which will not be able to intervene in individual decisions made.

### **Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (Investigative Functions) Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment by detailing the wide range of investigative powers the new IBAC will have, which will include a broad power to investigate alleged corrupt practices across the public sector, including the Courts, and a separate power to oversight professional police conduct. The Bill also provides for parliamentary oversight of the new IBAC and for the Commission's reporting and accountability obligations.

### **Parks and Crown Land Legislation Amendment Bill**

This bill will add additional land to a number of Victoria's parks. It will increase the lease arrangements to accommodate the future of the Arthur's Seat chairlift, streamline the administrative processes around fire prevention and suppression work in parks, and will change the status of the Frankston Natural Features Reserve and the St Arnaud Range National Park.

### **Port Management Amendment (Port of Melbourne Corporation Licence Fee) Bill**

This Bill imposes a port licence fee on the Port of Melbourne Corporation, payable each financial year.

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

### **City of Greater Geelong Amendment Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to provide for the Mayor of the City of Greater Geelong to be directly elected by the electors of the City, rather than the Council.

### **Planning and Environment Amendment (Schools) Bill**

This Bill implements an election commitment to amend the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to remove the requirement for non-government schools to pay a growth areas infrastructure contribution, commonly referred to as GAIC, on land they currently own in growth areas. This bill implements the government's commitment to ensure a non-discriminatory approach between government and non-government school providers, and to ensure that any person or body establishing or expanding a school in a growth area will not be required to pay GAIC.

### **Public Prosecutions Amendment Bill**

This bill refines the existing arrangements in the Public Prosecutions Act 1994 to clarify the role relationships between the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Chief Crown prosecutor and the Solicitor for Public Prosecutions. The bill also revises the role of associate Crown prosecutor. The bill will also remove the minimum term of reappointment for senior Crown prosecutors in certain circumstances.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- The Parliament paused to remember the third anniversary of the 2009 Bushfires.
- Condolence motions for the late Sam Loxton, OBE, former Member for Prahran and Australian Test cricketer, were passed by both Houses.
- Both Houses unanimously passed Addresses to the Sovereign, to congratulate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Accession to the Throne.

