

**BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND AND LEVY COLLECTION
AMENDMENT BILL 2015**

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mrs L.M. Harvey (Minister for Training and Workforce Development)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [2.51 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation to the house that will further enhance the operations of the Building and Construction Industry Training Board and the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund. In 2014, a review of the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Levy Collection Act 1990 was undertaken and included, as part of its terms of reference, the effectiveness of the legislation, the performance of the Building and Construction Industry Training Board and the operation of the construction training fund. The review report, which was tabled in Parliament in August 2014, found that the Building and Construction Industry Training Board and the construction training fund were operating effectively, and that the fund should continue to collect the training levy and deliver training support services. The review identified that the board was perceived as a strategic entity that communicated effectively with industry and was able to consider and work through contentious issues to deliver a considered opinion and provide market intelligence. The review made several recommendations to enhance the operation of the construction training fund, which are being progressed through the amendments proposed in this bill.

Firstly, the bill removes reference in the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Levy Collection Act 1990 to “improving the quality” of training as an objective of the fund, and replaces it with a new objective to “promote and facilitate” training. The legislation was enacted in 1990, at a time when limited mechanisms were in place to regulate or support the quality of training. Since then, a significant number of other government bodies, regulatory provisions and state and national policy frameworks have been put in place to support the quality of training. The introduction of commonwealth and state quality assurance regimes makes the quality improvement provision in the act redundant. Also, industry and community stakeholders believe that the promotion and facilitation of training is now a core function of the fund that should be reflected in the legislation.

Secondly, since its establishment, the Building and Construction Industry Training Board has been very effective in advising the minister on key employment and workforce development and training issues relating to the building and construction industry. The bill will formalise this arrangement by introducing an additional responsibility to the legislative functions of the board, requiring the board to provide advice to the minister on employment and workforce development and training relating to the building and construction industry.

Finally, the bill amends several sections of the act in which a threshold level of \$25 000 has been set for the application of a training levy relating to variations in the value of construction work once it is completed. The effect of these amendments is to remove the threshold levels from the act. It is the government’s intention that these thresholds be prescribed in the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund and Levy Collection Regulations 1991. This will simplify administration and enable more efficient management of threshold levels in the future. The threshold levels for collection of the initial levy payment prior to construction work commencing are already in the regulations. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman**.