

## Second Reading

**The Hon. JOHN ROBERTSON** (Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Minister for Energy, Minister for Corrective Services, Minister for Public Sector Reform, and Special Minister of State) [7.14 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce the Public Sector Restructure (Miscellaneous Acts Amendments) Bill 2009. In July 2009 the Government made major structural reforms to the New South Wales public sector, including the creation of the 13 super departments. The changes were achieved by an Administrative Changes Order under the Public Sector Employment and Management Act. The changes are the biggest structural reform to the New South Wales public sector in more than 30 years and are designed to ensure a greater focus on delivering services to the taxpayers of New South Wales, to better integrate public services and to cut internal Government red tape. The Government is determined to have the best public sector structure to deliver better services for the people of New South Wales. The reforms will put clients first, remove the silos and artificial barriers between agencies, and make it easier for services to be delivered in a seamless way.

The bill makes a number of consequential amendments to legislation following the public sector restructure. For example, under the Administrative Changes Order, the position of the Director General of the New South Wales Food Authority was abolished. The bill consequentially amends the Food Act to replace references to the "director general" with references to the "chief executive officer" of the authority, which is a public service position within the new Department of Industry and Investment. Another example of the consequential amendments made by the bill is the amendment to the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act. Under the Administrative Changes Order, the former Department of Corrective Services has been incorporated into the new Department of Justice and Attorney General.

The bill makes a minor amendment to the definition of the Commissioner of Corrective Services to make it clear that the position of commissioner is a position within the Department of Justice and Attorney General. I note, however, that the amendment does not affect the functions of the Commissioner of Corrective Services. The bill also rationalises responsibility for the exercise of functions under various Acts within the new department structures. For example, the statutory functions of the Aboriginal Housing Office are currently exercisable by the chief executive officer of the office. Under the Administrative Changes Order, the staff of the Aboriginal Housing Office have been transferred to the new Department of Human Services. The bill amends the Aboriginal Housing Act so that the functions of the Aboriginal Housing Office will be exercisable by the Director General of the Department of Human Services, with the director general having the power to delegate those functions to appropriate members of staff.

The bill will dissolve the Wollongong Sportsground Trust and transfer its assets to a newly constituted Illawarra Region Sporting Venues Authority. The new authority will be constituted under the Sporting Venues Authorities Act, which provides a more contemporary corporate governance framework than the Wollongong Sportsground Act for the management of the trust assets. The bill also dissolves the State Sports Centre Trust and transfers its assets to the Sydney Olympic Park Authority. The bill amends the authority's functions to make it clear that its functions relate to the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre.

The bill also amends various Acts to appoint relevant directors general as members of boards of certain statutory bodies where staff of the director general's department are employed to assist the body to exercise its statutory functions. For example, the bill will appoint the Director General of the Department of Services, Technology and Administration to the Board of Management of the Internal Audit Bureau. The bill also amends the Police Act, the Fire Brigades Act and the State Emergency Service Act to allow members of the New South Wales Police Force, New South Wales Fire Brigades and the State Emergency Service to be temporarily assigned to the new Department of Police and Emergency Services New South Wales.

The member's employment as a member of the New South Wales Police Force, New South Wales Fire Brigades or the State Emergency Service will not be affected by the temporary assignment to the department. Importantly, the officers may continue to exercise their functions as members of the New South Wales Police Force, New South Wales Fire Brigades or the State Emergency Service during the period of assignment. This means, for example, that police officers may continue to act as police officers and retain their powers during the temporary assignment to the department. This also means that if an emergency requires the full resources of the Fire Brigades, for example, these members of the Fire Brigades can be dispatched to the front-line without delay.

This bill implements aspects of the public sector restructure that were not addressed by the Administrative Changes Order. The public sector restructure allows the new departments to get on with the job of improving service delivery to their clients, and formally undertake joint service delivery initiatives. For example, the new Department of Human Services is taking the impetus of the amalgamations to look at how it delivers services to clients who interact with all or many of its parts, such as young children with disabilities, or adolescents with

complex needs, and those in rural and remote New South Wales. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water is supporting a sustainable future by creating jobs through authentic nature and cultural tourism and recreation opportunities. It is increasing training, improving regulation and providing incentives to facilitate new investment and stimulate demand for green technologies in areas such as renewable energy, water, waste and recycling.

The Government is committed to delivering better services for the people of New South Wales. It is this commitment that is driving these reforms, which are now solidly into the implementation stage. This bill is a necessary part of the Government's public sector restructure, and tightens the legislative framework to enable the new departments to continue to work towards delivering better services to the people of New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.