

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (PARLIAMENTARY PRESIDING OFFICERS) BILL 2014****Bill introduced on motion by Mr Mike Baird, read a first time and printed.****Second Reading****Mr MIKE BAIRD** (Manly—Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Minister for Western Sydney) [4.21 p.m.]: I move:

That this bill be now read a second time.

The Government is pleased to introduce this bill to provide for consistency for the roles of the presiding officers in continuing their administration duties during the election period. The changes will provide certainty and stability to the administration of the Parliament and the employment of parliamentary staff. The presiding officers administer the executive functions of the Parliament, including during the period when Parliament is dissolved ahead of an election and until the Parliament assembles after an election. The administrative duties of the presiding officers include approval of the appointment and termination of staff, including members' staff, management and control of the parliamentary buildings and precincts, and approval of administrative matters concerning the Department of the Legislative Council, the Department of the Legislative Assembly and the Department of Parliamentary Services.

In accordance with longstanding practice, the Constitution Act permits the Speaker to remain in office until the assembly of a new Parliament following a State general election. However, there is currently no power for the President to exercise administrative functions once he or she ceases to be a member of the Legislative Council. The bill will amend the Constitution Act to expressly provide that the President of the Legislative Council remains in office until the Legislative Council assembles for its first meeting after a State general election.

The bill amends the wording of the Constitution Act in relation to the Speaker to align the provisions in relation to both presiding officers. Similar amendments are made for their deputies when the presiding officers are unavailable. The bill also removes redundant and outdated provisions in relation to the procedures for electing the presiding officers, which existed before such procedures were determined by the standing orders of the particular House of Parliament and makes some consequential amendments to the Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989. I commend the bill to the House.

**Debate adjourned on motion by Mr Mike Baird and set down as an order of the day for a future day.**