

The following bills were passed in the May sittings of Parliament. Only the major features of each Bill are mentioned. This information is provided on an *allcare, no responsibility* basis.

NOTES FROM PARLIAMENT

by Greg Roche

LAND AND BUSINESS AGENTS AMENDMENT BILL (SERIAL 136) -- prohibits real estate agents from buying or selling lands or businesses in which they have an interest; extends the agent's duty of care to prospective buyers and third parties; increases penalties for practising as an unlicensed agent; gives the Agents Licensing Fidelity Guarantee Fund legal personality.

WATER (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL (SERIAL 133) -- minor consequential amendments consequent on passage of major amendments to Water Act in February sittings.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT (INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS) BILL (SERIAL 132) -- gives legal recognition to the implementation of contracts for senior public servants.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT (SERIAL 129) and SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT BILL (SERIAL 130) -- amends both schemes to comply with Commonwealth's Occupational Superannuation Standards Act 1987.

CRIMES (FORFEITURE OF PROCEEDS) AMENDMENT (SERIAL 127) -- alters definition of "proceeds of an offence" and "unlawful activity" to bring into line with Commonwealth obligations under the international Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT AMENDMENT BILL (SERIAL 135) -- increases Treasury powers of investment to include, inter alia, companies that maintain a minimum credit rating, merchant banks and futures contracts.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL (SERIAL 109) -- implements Mulholland recommendations on electronic recording of Records of Interview. Phased in implementation resulting in all admissions or confessions to offences with maximum penalty of two years will, by 1 July 1994, have to be tape recorded. First stage by 1 July 1992. Also clarified police power to detain without charging.

PASTORAL LAND (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL (SERIAL 134) -- minor consequential amendments consequent on passage of major amendments to Pastoral Lands Act in February sittings.

PUBLIC NOTARIES BILL (SERIAL 131) -- powers of public notaries clarified. Appointment of public notaries now in accordance with Supreme Court Rules rather than by petition. Repeals old English and South Australian Acts.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (NT) BILL (SERIAL 141), FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (TERRITORY SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY) BILL (SERIAL 142), FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (NT) (CONSEQUENTIAL

AMENDMENTS) BILL (SERIAL 143), CREDIT UNIONS ACT REPEAL BILL (SERIAL 144) AND INTERPRETATION AMENDMENT (SERIAL 145) -- part of an Australia wide co-operative scheme to cover non-banking financial institutions. These bills deal with building societies and credit unions. The bills, inter alia, recognise an Australian Financial Institutions Commission established in Queensland legislation; applies the Financial Institutions Code created by that legislation; creates a Territory Supervisory Authority and Registrar of Financial Institutions. Current credit union legislation is repealed.

TRAFFIC ACT AMENDMENT BILL (SERIAL 120) and MOTOR VEHICLES ACT AMENDMENT BILL (SERIAL 126) -- creates offence of driving with blood alcohol content of between .05 and .08 punishable by maximum fine of \$500/imprisonment for three months. Driving instructors to have BAC of .00 when teaching. Prevents the holding of interstate and Territory licenses at same time. Raises minimum age for learners permits.

REMINDER

Membership of the Society is renewable at the end of the financial year.

Reminder notices will be sent out shortly.