DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON ROGER JAENSCH MP
Minister for the Arts

Legislation and Regulatory Review (Education) Bill 2026

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Honourable Speaker, I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

This Bill gives effect to the Government's commitment to hold a Legislative Repeals Day. As part of this process, this Bill proposes amendments that will simplify and modernise legislation within the portfolios of Education, and Children and Youth.

Honourable Speaker, the approach to this Bill was deliberately scoped to non-controversial, low-complexity amendments for which public consultation was not required. This Bill makes a range of amendments to legislation within the portfolios of Education and Children and Youth, namely the *Archives Act 1983*, the *Child Protection (International Measures) Act 2003*, and the *Libraries Act 1984*.

I will now outline the specific amendments proposed in the Bill.

Honourable Speaker, the proposed amendments to the *Archives Act 1983* include removing gendered language, such as "he" and "him", and replacing it with gender neutral terms, such as the "state archivist" or "person". The Bill also proposes that the definition of "record" be modernised to align with the Commonwealth's definition in its *Archives Act 1983 (Cth)*. This includes drafting that a "record" may be electronic or otherwise.

The proposed amendment to the *Child Protection (International Measures) Act 2003* would replace gendered pronouns with a reference to "the child".

Honourable speaker, I would like to note here that the Bill does not amend the wording of the Child Protection Convention in Schedule 1 of the Child Protection Act, as this text directly replicates the wording of the Child Protection Convention itself.

Lastly, the proposed amendments to the *Libraries Act 1984* include removing gendered language, such as "he" and "him", and replacing with gender neutral terms, such as "secretary" and "appointed member". The Bill also proposes that fee guidelines may be published by the Secretary on a website that is operated by, or on behalf of, the Department, as an alternative to publication in a newspaper or the Gazette.

This Bill modernises and tidies legislative instruments within the portfolios of Education and Children and Youth.

Honourable Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.