

**ECONOMIC REGULATOR (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS)
BILL 2009**

SECOND READING SPEECH

Mr Speaker

I have previously introduced the *Economic Regulator Bill 2009* to establish the Tasmanian Economic Regulator to be the new regulator for the electricity supply, water, sewerage and gas industries, and to be responsible for the functions of the Government Prices Oversight Commission.

A number of consequential amendments are required to ensure that other relevant legislation reflects the new arrangements.

The *Economic Regulator (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2009* includes consequential amendments to the *Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995*, the *Gas Act 2000*, the *Gas Pipelines Act 2000* and the *Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008* to provide that the Tasmanian Economic Regulator is the regulator for these industries.

The Bill amends these Acts to provide that a single annual report, including financial statements, is produced by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator, covering the regulation of all these industries.

Mr Speaker, certain safety-related functions under the Gas Act, the Electricity Supply Industry Act and the *Electrical Industry Supply and Administration Act 1997* are currently delegated to Workplace Standards Tasmania, as the Commission does not have the technical expertise necessary to discharge the relevant responsibilities. The Bill amends the Acts to assign responsibility for these functions to Workplace Standards Tasmania.

I commend the Bill to the House.