

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

THE HON MICHAEL FERGUSON, MP

RAIL SAFETY NATIONAL LAW (TASMANIA) AMENDMENT BILL 2020

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

Madam Speaker, I present to the house today the Rail Safety National Law (Tasmania) Amendment Bill 2020.

The purpose of this Bill is to remove a reference to an overlapping provision from Tasmanian state law following the recent introduction of a national offence with the same intent.

The Rail Safety National Law applies in Tasmania through the *Rail Safety National Law (Tasmania) Act 2012*.

In 2018, Transport and Infrastructure Council Ministers agreed to make it an offence for a rail safety worker to obstruct or hinder drug or alcohol testing. This offence commenced nationally in 2019.

The same offence already exists in Tasmanian rail safety law through reference to a provision in the *Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970*.

Madam Speaker, this amendment addresses the conflict of the overlapping provisions by removing the reference to local state law from the Principal Act. The national offence is retained.

This amendment will help to clarify local enforcement and will ensure national consistency in the application of the Rail Safety National Law.

Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.