1. The justice portfolio encompasses the administration of over 150 statutes which are periodically reviewed to identify amendments to ensure that the Acts continue to operate in the manner intended. Other amendments to legislation may be identified as a result of court or tribunal decisions or representations by administering agencies and stakeholders.
2. The Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 makes amendments to various statutes in the justice portfolio, including amendments to:
* the *Coroners Act 2003* to apply that Act to all future inquests, including where a death or disappearance occurred before the commencement of that Act;
* the Criminal Code to expand summary disposition of indictable offences relating to property;
* the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003* to clarify its operation with respect to prisoners returned to custody on parole suspensions and those serving periods of detention while being held in custody in a corrective services facility;
* the *District Court of Queensland Act 1967* (and the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921*) to clarify the treatment of interest when determining the jurisdictional monetary limit of the District and Magistrates Courts;
* the *Evidence Act 1977* to enable the court to exclude the public from a courtroom while a statement under section 93A (Statement made before proceeding by child or person with an impairment of the mind) from an affected child or special witness is being played;
* the *Legal Profession Act 2007* to strengthen the provisions relating to directors of insolvent incorporated legal practices and corporations;
* the *Magistrates Courts Act 1921* to clarify the jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts to include personal actions for the recovery of chattels;
* the *Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982* to include general criminal activity that is likely to pose a risk to the safety of another person in the definition of disorderly activity;
* the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* to enhance judicial discretion and reduce complexity in the making of pre-sentence custody declarations;
* the *Property Law Act 1974* to clarify that a mortgagee may exercise a power of sale following the disclaimer of freehold land by a trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator without the need to apply for a court order;
* the *Land Court Act 2000* to clarify and improve the administration of the Land Court and its procedures and processes;
* the *Succession Act 1981* to streamline applications for, and the execution of, court appointed wills for people without testamentary capacity; and
* other justice portfolio statutes to streamline administrative processes, clarify various provisions and make amendments of a technical or drafting nature.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)