1. The Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill 2021 (the Bill) amends the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (PPRA)*, Oaths Regulation 2021* (Oaths Regulation)*,* *Police Service Administration Act 1990* (PSAA)*, Police Service Administration Regulation 2016* (PSAR)and the *Weapons Act 1990* (Weapons Act). The amendments are designed to support the efficient and effective provision of policing services.
2. The Bill amends the PPRA to allow police to apply to a magistrate or judge where a digital device has lawfully been seized and there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that information on the device may be evidence of a crime scene threshold offence or a specified technology-related offence. Currently, police can only make an application to a magistrate or Supreme Court judge for an access order if the device has been seized under a search warrant issued by a magistrate or is from a crime scene.
3. The Bill makes regulations under the *Oaths Act 1867* that, in conjunction with amendments made under the Justice Legislation (Covid-19 Emergency Response – Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021, enable senior police officers to perform the witnessing functions currently performed by a Commissioner for Declarations or Justice of the Peace with respect to affidavits for bail hearings, document service and urgent and remote warrant applications.
4. The PSAA provides the legislative framework for the drug and alcohol testing of police officers and staff members who perform specific functions. The Bill amends the definition of a ‘critical incident’, which is a trigger for these testing powers to align more closely with the definition of a reportable death in the *Coroners Act 2003.* The Bill will also amend the PSAA to allow saliva tests to be used as an alternative way to test for targeted substances.
5. The PSAA provides the Commissioner of Police with the authority to appoint police officers from other Australian jurisdictions as special constables or non-state police officers. The Bill amends the PSAA to clarify the powers that special constables and non-state police officers can exercise in Queensland.
6. The Bill amends the Weapons Act to:
* extend the permitted ‘safe keeping’ period to six months and to enable authorised civilians to issue evidentiary certificates relating to the classification of weapons; and
* enable firearms dealers who are participating in the permanent firearms amnesty to retain anonymously surrendered firearms when approved to do so by an authorised Officer, Weapons Licensing.
1. Cabinet approved that the Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill 2021 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Amendment Bill 2021](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Statement of Compatibility with the *Human Rights Act 2019*](Attachments/SoC.PDF)