1. The Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 implements the Government’s election commitment to restore civil partnership ceremonies.
2. The Bill ensures that adult couples, regardless of their gender, can have an official civil partnership ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate their relationships.
3. The Bill reinstates civil partnership ceremonies by:
	* renaming the *Relationships Act 2011* the *Civil Partnerships Act 2011*, and making other terminology changes including replacing references to ‘registered relationship’ with ‘civil partnership’ (CP);
	* providing for couples to enter into a CP by making a declaration to each other (i.e. the CP ceremony) prior to registering their relationship;
	* providing for registration (including registration cancellation) of CP notaries, including eligibility criteria and for the Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages (RBDM) / delegate of the RBDM to also be a notary;
	* providing that decisions: to refuse to register a relationship involving a civil ceremony; to refuse to register a person as a CP notary; or to cancel a person’s registration as a notary are decisions that are reviewable by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT);
	* providing non-compliance with certain provisions relating to the CP ceremony will not invalidate a CP;
	* reintroducing offences to uphold the integrity of CP ceremonies; and
	* making consequential amendments to a range of other Acts.
4. The Bill also makes a number of technical amendments to the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003* to provide recognition of electronic records and support the transition to a digitised registration service.
5. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015 into the Legislative Assembly.
6. *Attachments*
* [Relationships (Civil Partnerships) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2015](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)