

~~I believe that those recommendations will be and are being considered by the Minister for Health. He has certainly indicated that in the public arena. What those recommendations mean is that the complaints by Jo Barber are certainly being dealt with and treated very seriously and are the subject of further investigation. I commend this report to the parliament and to the people of Queensland for consideration.~~

~~Question put That the motion be agreed to.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

MINES LEGISLATION (STREAMLINING) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. AP CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (11.08 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Act 1994, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 for particular purposes, and to make consequential amendments of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Land Court Act 2000, the Local Government Act 2009, the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Wild Rivers Act 2005. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill Volumes 1 and Volume 2.

Tabled paper: Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill, Explanatory Notes.

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The Newman government will ensure that Queensland's resources and energy sector is a world leader by improving the state's investment attractiveness and making it easier to do business in Queensland.

To support the government's commitment to reforming mining and resource tenure management and to reduce red tape, the Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012 contains amendments that will deliver a modern and more efficient regulatory framework. These amendments will:

- modernise the tenure administration system and reduce the time taken for each tenure decision under the Streamlining Approvals Project;
- clarify legislation so that resource activities, such as exploration, and development activities, such as transport and infrastructure development, can coexist;
- clarify an application of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to hazardous chemicals and major hazard facilities; and
- support the delivery of coal seam gas to liquefied natural gas, or CSG-LNG, projects in Queensland.

Current resource tenure processes are antiquated, inefficient and impose unnecessary administrative and regulatory burdens on industry and on government. This needlessly wastes considerable government and industry time and resources. Implementing initiatives from the Streamlining Approvals Project will modernise the tenure administration system and reduce the time taken for each tenure decision.

This government is committed to cutting red tape and restoring clear, stable regulatory frameworks and investment certainty for the resources sector—a sector that generates significant wealth and economic benefits for Queensland. The amendments in the bill will help transform tenure management from an outdated manual, paper based system to a faster, modern and more transparent online environment through MyMinesOnline. MyMinesOnline is a web based service delivery system which will provide seamless interaction between the relevant department and the resources industry.

The bill will reduce red tape by removing cumbersome, complex and inefficient processes while maintaining the rigorous assessment system that is necessary for sustainable and appropriate resource development. These reforms will enable the department to process more tenure applications, improve the efficiency of administrative processes and ultimately make more timely decisions. Industry will be able to transact business with the department anywhere there is access to the web, further improving the state's investment attractiveness by making it easier to do business in Queensland.

The bill also includes amendments to establish common structure, terminology and assessments for resource activities under Queensland's resources legislation—the Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 and Geothermal Energy Act 2010. This will result in a more consistent tenure application and assessment model across all resource types.

Additionally, the bill includes amendments to Queensland's Acquisition of Land Act and other acts to ensure they accurately reflect government policy and practice for the compulsory acquisition of land. The amendments will ensure constructing authorities have the flexibility in relation to the compulsory acquisition of resource interests, bringing Queensland's legislation into line with the other resource jurisdictions in Australia.

The amendments will clarify that the compulsory acquisition of land by a constructing authority will not extinguish resource interests, with the exception of instances where a potential or real conflict exists. The amendments introduce a discretionary power for constructing authorities to acquire resource interests where there is a conflict with the purpose of the proposed take—for example, a rail corridor that needs to be acquired that would impact on a proposal for an open-cut coal mine.

Transitional provisions have been included to ensure that, for past compulsory acquisitions of land, resource interests were not extinguished unless actions were specifically taken to do so. These amendments will ensure the majority of resource related activities, such as exploration and CSG production, and development activities, such as the building of road and rail infrastructure, can continue to coexist.

The bill proposes amendments to the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, which was passed in May 2011 as part of the state's commitment to the Council of Australian Governments' national harmonisation of general work safety laws. This act contained provisions for the transfer of the regulation of hazardous chemicals and major hazard facilities from Queensland's specialised mining legislation. National harmonisation did not intend such a transfer of authority and therefore amendments contained in the bill make it clear that the regulation of hazardous chemicals and major hazard facilities on mine sites is required by the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 and associated subordinate legislation.

Finally, the bill contains amendments to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 that are vital for the sustainable development of CSG-LNG projects in Queensland. These amendments will support improved environmental outcomes and increase regulatory certainty for the state's emerging CSG-LNG industry by:

- delivering a more efficient framework for the safe storage, transportation and treatment of CSG water and brine from and on individual petroleum leases and between lease areas;
- allowing pipelines to be constructed to transport CSG water and brine under a pipeline licence;
- supporting the development of centralised water treatment and brine processing facilities; and
- enhancing the possibilities for beneficial use of treated CSG water and encouraging the commercial disposal of salt recovered from brine.

The amendments also provide for:

- the registration of pipeline easements negotiated between CSG-LNG proponents and landholders, bringing security for pipeline infrastructure investments made by proponents and for landholders;
- incidental activities such as the building of roads and construction of power lines to occur across adjacent petroleum tenures areas; and
- petroleum leaseholders to seek ministerial consent to change a delayed production commencement date.

The Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012 will reduce red tape for investors and at the same time increase security for landholders and industry. This legislation will contribute to the growth of the mining industry, one of the four pillars identified by this government to drive economic growth, job creation and prosperity in Queensland. It will also ensure the state's resources sector has a strong future, with a stable, clear and efficient legislative framework for the industry. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. AP CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (11.18 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.