

and the port of Hay Point are priority ports. Right at our doorstep we have available land in commercial and industrial estates and opportunities for a supply chain development of domestic and international trade. Unlike our predecessors, the Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of this and other vital projects and has taken action to make those a priority. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government's Accelerated Work Programs, we will see over \$75 million worth of projects, including the rebuilding of the Vines Creek bridges, fast tracked to put Mackay back on the road to recovery.

Just some of accelerated works projects for Mackay and surrounding regions include: the Woodlands Estate Andergrove stage 7, \$1.71 million and stage 8, \$2.93 million; wharf 4 and 5, fender and wharf upgrades, \$8.5 million; Mackay port navigation lights upgrade, \$400,000; overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway, \$8.15 million; Abbot Point material offloading facility, \$4.25 million; Hay Point material offloading facility, \$2.5 million; Mackay harbour east upgrade of intersection and port road, \$1.1 million; maintenance projects across eight schools in Mackay and the Bowen Basin, \$3.9 million; and let us not forget \$28 million for the Vines Creek bridges. That is over \$60 million worth of projects. The Palaszczuk government has also committed \$23 million towards the Eton Range Peak Downs Highway project, which is currently awaiting approvals under federal government environmental legislation. These projects will provide opportunities for local tradespeople and contractors. These jobs will have a positive flow on effect to other sectors, including retail, hospitality and tourism, restimulating our local economy and providing opportunities in our region to rebuild, strengthen and diversify. The Accelerated Works Program is a great initiative that will have profound and positive effects, not only on my region's economy but also on the morale of the people who live and raise their families there.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Before I call the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, I acknowledge in the gallery students from St Joseph's School, Waterford, in the electorate of the member for Waterford. Welcome.

MINERAL RESOURCES (AURUKUN BAUXITE RESOURCE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.29 pm<): I present a bill for an act to amend the Mineral Resources Act 1989 >for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Mineral Resources (Aurukun Bauxite Resource) Amendment Bill 2016.

Tabled paper: Mineral Resources (Aurukun Bauxite Resource) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Mineral Resources (Aurukun Bauxite Resource) Amendment Bill 2016. The bill will amend the special provisions in the Mineral Resources Act 1989 which apply to an Aurukun project. The Aurukun bauxite deposits are located within a gazetted restricted area, or RA315, and are currently subject to a special assessment regime in the Mineral Resources Act that modifies the processes for assessing and granting tenures for an Aurukun project. The Aurukun provisions operate to restrict who can apply for a mineral development licence or mining lease for an Aurukun project, and the usual notification and objections processes that apply to other resource projects are excluded for those applications.

The key amendments in the bill will largely reinstate, for an Aurukun project, the usual notification and objection processes that apply to other resources projects of this type. This will mean that an applicant for a mining lease for an Aurukun project will be required to undertake public notification of the application and provide a copy to relevant owners of land which is subject to the application. Any person from the broader community will be able to make an objection to the granting of the mining lease and have that objection heard by the Land Court.

The amendments in this bill are another step forward in achieving this government's election commitment to restore community objection rights relating to mining developments as soon as possible not only to the local landholders and Indigenous groups but also to the broader Queensland community as a whole. The Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation, known as the NAK, is the native title prescribed body corporate for the Wik and Wik Way people who hold native title over the majority of the restricted area 315. In 2013 the NAK also became the owner of the majority of the restricted area 315 when it was transferred as Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991.

As many would be aware, the NAK has commenced legal proceedings in the High Court of Australia to challenge certain Aurukun provisions in the Mineral Resources Act. The NAK has taken

this action because it claims the Aurukun provisions are inconsistent with the Commonwealth's Racial Discrimination Act 1975. The Aurukun provisions were never intended to have a discriminatory effect and it remains the state's position that the provisions are valid.

The Aurukun bauxite deposits have been estimated to contain more than 480 million tonnes of dry beneficiated bauxite and are one of a limited number of large bauxite deposits in the world currently available for development. The Aurukun provisions were included in the Mineral Resources Act in 2006 to streamline the approval pathway and to encourage development of the Aurukun bauxite resource, a resource with substantial physical constraints which had hindered its development in the past. At the time, the state was promoting the development of the Aurukun bauxite resource, and the Aurukun provisions were designed to provide legislative assurance for a simplified process to achieve certainty of mining tenure for the preferred bidder.

For some time successive governments have sought to turn this bauxite deposit into a development project for the benefit of the local community and the state. Most recently, the previous government undertook a competitive process to identify a suitable developer for the bauxite resources at Aurukun. In early 2015, a development agreement was executed with Glencore Bauxite Resources Pty Ltd for the development of an Aurukun bauxite project. Only a party to a development agreement with the state to develop an Aurukun project, called an Aurukun agreement, can hold a mineral development licence or mining lease in the Aurukun restricted area.

Glencore's Aurukun bauxite project is a significant commercial development for Queensland and will provide long-term economic, social and financial benefits for the state and for the communities of Cape York. Queensland stands to gain hundreds of construction jobs and hundreds of long-term jobs for regional Queenslanders. The project will result in substantial economic activity in and around Cape York. In particular, the development of the Aurukun bauxite project will have significant positive impacts for the western cape region.

Working with the community and other stakeholders to identify local opportunities for participation will be a key focus for Glencore in the early stages of the project, whilst undertaking the detailed feasibility, mine planning and development assessment typical for a project of this nature. The Aurukun project will generate immediate employment opportunities during the project feasibility and investigation stages including exploration and, importantly, cultural survey jobs.

A detailed feasibility study and impact assessment must still be undertaken by Glencore, and agreement with the native title holders reached. Based on the current project concept, it envisages up to 250 job opportunities during operation of the mine and up to 400 jobs during the construction stage.

Glencore has already made contributions to a range of community programs and events in Aurukun over the past 12 months. I am confident that Glencore will approach engagement and consultation with the traditional owners and Aurukun community in an inclusive and respectful way which will lay the foundations for a mutually beneficial long-term relationship with the Wik and Wik Way people.

The development of this world class deposit will deliver genuine economic opportunities for the community of Aurukun and other cape communities, with direct and indirect economic and social benefits that will flow through to all Queenslanders. The Queensland government is determined to work cooperatively with Glencore and the Aurukun community to make the development a reality. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

~~Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.37 pm): 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 Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

~~Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.~~