

~~Of course, we all know how much the Leader of the Opposition disdains solar users, calling them latte sippers and champagne drinkers. However, the other day on Twitter there was a picture of him with a latte in front of him. I thought, 'Hello, Tim must be getting solar on his roof.'~~

~~We did not see in the budget support for Queensland for hydro, support for Queensland's clean energy boom that is happening in North Queensland—\$2 billion worth of investment, 16 projects. What did we get from Canberra? Nothing.~~

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~~Cleveland Rail Line~~

~~**Dr ROBINSON:** My question is to the Premier. Labor's rail fail has seen the Cleveland line as one of the worst affected in the city. One commuter who works in the city recently said, 'I have recently experienced four train breakdowns and multiple waits. They have not fixed the train line.' When will this government fix the broken Cleveland line and restore faith among my commuters in public transport?~~

~~**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for his question. I am sorry that his constituent has had that experience. Can I update the House that we now have a new CEO in place, we have a new chair, Philip Strachan, and the Deputy Premier has been tasked with fixing the trains. That is exactly what she is doing. She is working incredibly hard with the board. In fact, she has just advised me that she travelled that line herself last week. She is out there meeting with the public, listening to their views and, of course, delivering. There is no stronger advocate, other than me, for Cross River Rail in this state. This Deputy Premier is fighting tooth and nail to get the funding that we need from Canberra for Cross River Rail.~~

~~Once again I am extremely disappointed—and this is incredibly relevant—that all those opposite can do is come in and attack Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project. What they are attacking is jobs for Queensland. Honestly, if this is a question time strategy they had better go back to the drawing board because it is just absolutely hopeless.~~

~~**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I think you have answered the question.~~

~~Federal Budget, Great Barrier Reef~~

~~**Mr Russo:** My question is of the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. I refer to the federal budget announcement. Will the minister inform the House how the federal budget will impact the Great Barrier Reef?~~

~~**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Sunnybank for his question and his ongoing advocacy for our Great Barrier Reef. The reef is an international icon. It supports nearly 70,000 jobs in tourism and contributes nearly \$6 billion to the Queensland and Australian economies, but you would not know it from the federal budget last night. There was no mention of funding for any environmental initiatives, let alone the Great Barrier Reef. Despite the fact that Tropical Cyclone Debbie devastated coral reefs at some of our tourism hotspots, despite the fact that the reef has just suffered through a second coral bleaching event in as many years and despite the fact that there is international concern for the reef's health with the World Heritage Committee keeping a close eye on our water quality progress, despite all of this our Great Barrier Reef did not warrant even a mention or any new funding in last night's budget.~~

~~In keeping with its approach from last year, the Turnbull government has delivered no new money for the reef—none! The federal government has let the reef down again and they have let down all those Australians who cherish the reef and want to fight for its survival. The Palaszczuk government is investing record amounts in efforts to support the reef's resilience in the face of increased pressures from climate change. On average we are dedicating \$55 million per year to efforts to improve water quality. Historically the Commonwealth government has funded reef programs two to one, but now the Turnbull government has slashed that contribution to just fifty fifty. The Great Barrier Reef and the 60,000 jobs that rely on it need a genuine commitment from the Turnbull government. They need to reverse these cuts.~~

~~**Mr SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.~~

GASFIELDS COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.04 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Biodiscovery Act 2004, the

Gasfields Commission Act 2013, the Right to Information Act 2009, the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015 and the Public Service Regulation 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Gasfields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017.

Tabled paper: Gasfields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Gasfields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. On 18 December 2015, the Premier and Minister for the Arts committed to an independent review of the GasFields Commission, an independent statutory body established to manage and improve sustainable coexistence between rural landholders, regional communities and the onshore gas industry. The review was commissioned to determine whether the current GasFields Commission model works effectively to manage disputes between resource companies and landholders and to provide recommendations to the Queensland government on opportunities to improve regulatory and administrative settings.

The review commenced on 23 March 2016 under Professor Scott, a former member of the Land Court of Queensland. Professor Scott delivered his final report on 29 July 2016 and the bill responds to recommendations from the independent review. I would like to once again take the time to thank Professor Scott personally for his time and dedication in completing his report. On 1 December 2016, the government released the independent report and the government's response to the report.

The report made 18 recommendations and the government has supported, or supported in principle, the majority of the recommendations. The review made recommendations on a range of matters, including the appointment status of the chairperson—full-time or part-time; management of disputes; the functions and operation of the commission; and the potential role for the commission in managing or facilitating responses to public health concerns.

The bill introduces a new function in relation to providing information and coordination on health and wellbeing matters. This new function will be performed in conjunction with health specialists and service providers. The bill also makes amendments to clarify that the commission should not be involved in individual disputes. Reforms to the dispute resolution process and the establishment of a separate Land Access Ombudsman are being managed through my Department of Natural Resources and Mines. These amendments will be brought forward separately for consideration later this year.

The bill provides a clearer distinction between the strategic and operational functions of the commission, which was a key recommendation of the review. The commissioners will operate as a board and set the strategic direction for the commission. Commission staff will implement this strategic direction by, for example, stakeholder engagement and the enhanced extension and communication role recommended by the reviewer. This change in role for the commissioners means that the role of chairperson no longer needs to be full-time. However, the bill is drafted to provide the responsible minister with flexibility to recommend either a part-time or full-time chairperson to the Governor-in-Council. The position of general manager of the commission will be redesignated to become the chief executive officer. There are a range of consequential amendments that arise from these changes, for example, delegations, declarations of interest, quorums for board meetings, special leave arrangements and temporary appointments during extended periods of leave. These amendments are reflected throughout the bill.

The bill also amends the Biodiscovery Act 2004 to provide an alternative option to the administration of benefit sharing agreements. The Biodiscovery Act allows entities to collect and use native biological material from state land and waters for the purpose of biodiscovery. An example of biodiscovery is the collection of a native plant from state land to extract a compound to form the basis for development and commercialisation of a pharmaceutical product. The Biodiscovery Act is currently structured so that every entity that uses native biological material along a commercial chain is required to have a benefit sharing agreement with the state. This was originally intended to ensure that any potential benefits of biodiscovery are shared in a fair and equitable way between the state and the biodiscovery entities. However, this structure does not reflect commercial reality. There can be many entities involved in a commercial chain and requiring each one to have a contract with the state may be a disincentive to creating commercial opportunities.

014 The amendments to the Biodiscovery Act will provide an alternative option to the administration of benefit sharing agreements by giving a head biodiscovery entity that has a benefit sharing agreement with the state the option to enter into its own arrangements with subsequent users of native biological material. This will ensure that all entities along a commercial chain can operate in an efficient

commercial arrangement, with reduced regulatory burden under the Biodiscovery Act. This will help encourage job creation and innovation in scientific discovery.

The bill will also make a minor amendment to the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015 to ensure that a port overlay consistently applies to development in a master planned area. This amendment will clarify that a port overlay cannot regulate development that is regulated under a development scheme for a priority development area or for a state development area. This government is responsible for the implementation of master planning processes for the four priority ports under the Sustainable Ports Development Act to deliver on the key port-related actions from the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan. The amendment to section 19(4) of the Sustainable Ports Development Act ensures a master plan can be implemented through the port overlay and contributes to achieving commitments under Reef 2050. It will also ensure that local governments and port authorities can apply the port overlay when assessing development that is located within a priority development area or for a state development area but excluded from the development scheme, as originally intended.

This bill delivers on the commitments made by the government and recommendations from the independent report. The commitments demonstrate this government's will to support Queensland's onshore gas industry and the landholders and communities in which it operates. The bill will also streamline the biodiscovery framework to assist this exciting sector to develop innovative products and to grow and prosper. The bill also clarifies the application of a port overlay and contributes to achieving commitments under Reef 2050. 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) (4.11 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 (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.~~

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

~~Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.11 pm), by leave, without notice: I move~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report to the House on the Gasfields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 14 July 2017.~~

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

~~Motion agreed to.~~

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL (TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

~~Resumed from 1 December 2016 (see p. 4863).~~

Second Reading

~~ Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (4.12 pm): I move~~

~~That the bill be now read a second time.~~

~~From the outset I thank the committee and the secretariat for their consideration of the bill. My thanks go to those stakeholders who made submissions as part of the committee's examination of the bill and spent time and effort in communicating their concerns, suggestions and support of the bill.~~