

# Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

## Statement of Compatibility

### Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*

In accordance with section 38 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, I, the Honourable Dale Last MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing, Minister for Regional and Rural Development make this statement of compatibility with respect to the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026*.

In my opinion, the *Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026* (the Bill) is compatible with the human rights protected by the *Human Rights Act 2019*. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

### Overview of the Bill

The Bill implements changes to governance structure of government institutions and are machinery in nature.

Amendments in the Bill introduces a governing board to provide strategic direction, oversight and governance of Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ). This will rectify issues pertaining to the lack of existing substantive oversight mechanisms within the organisation.

The Bill also repeals the role of Commissioner for Resources Safety and Health (Commissioner) with their functions and responsibilities transferred to the board. The board once established will function as a contemporary and effective mechanism for independent oversight and stakeholder engagement. The Commissioner role is considered ill-defined and lacks clear performance metrics to measure the role's effectiveness.

RSHQ's Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee (CMSHAC) and Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee (MSHAC) remain valued tripartite forums that allow stakeholder engagement on health and safety matters, however their advisory influence has diminished over time due to a lack of clarity about their purpose, their inconsistent engagement with government, and their limited transparency.

To rectify these issues, the chairs of the CMSHAC and MSHAC will be appointed from among members of the new governing board, maintaining the tripartite composition and advisory intent of the committees, while embedding them more directly in RSHQ's governance structure. This will provide clearer accountability, stronger alignment with strategic priorities and more effective engagement between the board, stakeholders and the Minister. The functions of the committee will also be amended to reinstate their previous advisory functions in relation to legislation, recognised standards, and guidelines. This will

utilise the expertise of the committees in the development of new resources health and safety policy and enhance stakeholder engagement in the advancement of such policy.

The Bill will also amend the *Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017* (LAO Act), *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (MEROLA Act) and *Coexistence Queensland Act 2013* to reverse the annual industry levy and cost recovery fees introduced by the MEROLA Act. An advisory council will also be established, with all positions filled by the current members of Coexistence Queensland. This council will be responsible for providing advice on the Office of Land Access Ombudsman's budget, policies, and procedures, as well as ensuring the ombudsman's independence is maintained. Amendments will also establish that the Coexistence Queensland's chief executive officer (CEO) will be taken to be the Land Access Ombudsman (LAO).

The Bill will introduce procedural and administrative arrangements to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* to address outdated and impractical provisions which will modernise the framework and reduce unnecessary burden for industry and government.

## **Human Rights Issues**

### **Human rights relevant to the Bill (Part 2, Division 2 and 3 *Human Rights Act 2019*)**

In my opinion, the Bill will not restrict human rights in any significant capacity. I have proceeded on the basis that it engages the human right of taking part in public life.

It engages this right through limiting the eligibility and access to appointment as LAO to the CEO of Coexistence Queensland. This right is also engaged by limiting the eligibility and access to appointment as a member of the LAO advisory council to members of Coexistence Queensland.

This right is not limited, however, as appointment to these Coexistence Queensland positions when vacant will remain open to all eligible individuals. This approach ensures principles of fairness, transparency and equal access to public roles are maintained.

## **Conclusion**

In my opinion, the Resources Safety and Health Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 is compatible with human rights under the *Human Rights Act 2019* because it engages but does not limit human rights in any capacity.

**DALE LAST MP**  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for  
Regional and Rural Development.