



**Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014**

**Public Briefing of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee**

**Additional information**

**Department of Natural Resources and Mines**

## **Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers' Superannuation Act 1989**

The Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014 (Bill) repeals the *Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers' Superannuation Act 1989* (Coal Super Act) to provide coal and oil shale mine workers with greater choice with regard to their superannuation investment. Repealing the Coal Super Act removes the requirement for coal and oil shale mine employers and employees to compulsorily make contributions to the AUSCOAL Superannuation Fund at prescribed rates.

Removal of this requirement will bring the Coal Super Act in line with the Commonwealth *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* that allows employees to choose the superannuation fund into which their employers pay their superannuation contributions, and meets the requests of miners to be given greater choice with regards to their superannuation fund. Employees can still elect the AUSCOAL Superannuation Fund as their preferred superannuation fund, as the fund exists independently of the Act.

The department met with the AUSCOAL Superannuation Fund prior to the tabling of the Bill to advise of this approach, and were supportive of the repeal. The department committed to working with AUSCOAL with regard to the timing of the commencement of the provisions.

## **Mount Isa Mines Limited Agreement Act 1985**

The *Mount Isa Mines Limited Agreement Act 1985* is a Special Agreement Act which contains an agreement between Mount Isa Mines Limited (now Glencore) and the State about the operations of Mining Lease 8058.

The amendments remove superfluous environmental provisions which are no longer required due to the transition of the environmental regulation of Glencore's mining lease to an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

The proposed amendments are to vary the agreement contained in Schedule 1 of the Act. These variations have been agreed to by the State and Glencore, and do not impact the broader industry, the community or government.

## **Amendments to Petroleum and Mineral Legislation**

The Bill also amends a number of redundant administrative requirements, clarifies certain requirements on the holder of a mining tenement, authority to prospect or petroleum lease, and addresses various anomalies in the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, *Petroleum Act 1923* and the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*.

In dealing with these Acts, the department and the resources sector sometimes identify anomalies that make the operation of these Acts ineffective or a burden to regulatory efficiency. For the same reason, the department also identifies duplications of provisions in these Acts that have the same effect as provisions within the same Act or are provided for in another Act. The Bill addresses these anomalies.