




Speech by

Lisa France

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

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MINES LEGISLATION (STREAMLINING) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (4.19 pm): I stand here today to speak in support of the Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012. This government has committed to reducing red tape and providing regulatory certainty to investors, with the Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Bill 2012 being a clear step in the delivery of this commitment. The bill contains the amendments necessary to transition Queensland from a paper based system to an online delivery system and to modernise Queensland's regulatory approvals process. In addition, the amendments proposed in the bill will increase transparency of the tenure approvals process.

The bill contains amendments that have been categorised under four objectives. These are: to implement part of the Streamlining Approvals Project; to clarify the legislative framework relating to compulsory acquisition of land as it relates to resource interests; to confirm and clarify current jurisdictional arrangements in relation to the regulation of hazardous chemicals, major hazard facilities and operating plants; and to provide increased regulatory certainty for all parties involved in the state's emerging CSG-LNG industry. The amendments relating to the Streamlining Approvals Project will be the focus of my speech here today.

This government has been working closely with our industry partners since 2009 to develop and deliver the Streamlining Approvals Project. The goal of this project is to modernise Queensland's mining and petroleum regulatory approval system. A key finding in the first report on the streamlining project was that the outdated paper based system blocked the flow of information and restricted innovation in service delivery. The current tenure administration system 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.

The main recommendation of the report was that an integrated electronic management system was needed to modernise Queensland's process to achieve best practice technologies and to bring Queensland into line with other Australian states. This will be achieved through the introduction of an online service delivery system called MyMinesOnline. Queensland's resources acts require amendments to facilitate the operation of this online service. These amendments will also improve process efficiency and reduce assessment times.

The streamlining related amendments proposed in the bill include: the removal of barriers to online lodgement and the sharing of data between agencies; the transfer of power to grant mining leases under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and petroleum leases under the Petroleum Act 1923 from the Governor in Council to the minister, improving approval times; providing clarity of process for industry around the administration of mineral and coal exploration permits under the Mineral Resources Act 1989; providing a single process common across all of Queensland's resources acts for resource authority holders to deal with business transactions and changes of ownership; providing a consistent process across all resources acts for the department to request additional information about any resource authority application; clarifying that environmental studies are permitted under a mineral and coal exploration permit; allowing the department to give notice to resource authority applicants to progress their application if they are

unreasonably delaying its progress; clarifying that applications for mining claims and leases referred to the Land Court can be remitted to the mining registrar if all objections to the application have been withdrawn before the hearing starts; and reducing the term of a mining claim from 10 years to five years.

The streamlining project amendments are about aligning the process across resource legislation, reducing red tape and improving departmental efficiency. Through this, Queensland is actively reforming its regulatory environment for mining which sends a strong message to the world that Queensland is open for business. I commend the bill to the House.