




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT
BILL**

BIODISCOVERY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.08 pm): The contribution from the member for Callide was entertaining. Whatever he had for lunch, we all should have some. I rise to speak on the cognate bills, the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Biodiscovery and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The rehabilitation of mining land in my region is vitally important to land health, the environment and the ability to re-use land once mining operations are extinguished from a mine site. In recent years there have been some exciting and extensive rehabilitation works carried out on mine sites and I have been privileged to be invited onto these sites to inspect the works. There are mining companies in the Bowen Basin that are taking rehabilitation of their disused pits seriously. They want to leave the land in a state that is usable for agriculture, grazing or back to its natural state reflecting the wishes of traditional owners.

The most recent mine that I have had the privilege to visit this year was the Coppabella mine. The land will never look the same as it did before mining, but Coppabella's rehabilitation program is focused on establishing a post-mining land use that has been determined in consultation with traditional owners. The objective of this is to establish a conservation area useful for traditional owners. This has been achieved and is built into Coppabella's rehabilitation process through the selection of native grasses and tree species. Coppabella has already rehabilitated 657 hectares of land as part of its progressive rehabilitation plans.

In 1998 Coppabella signed Queensland's first native title agreement and Peabody maintains a positive working relationship with the native title holders of the Barada Barna people. Peabody has a trainee program supporting local Indigenous youth trainees working on country. Eight Barada Barna trainees are currently employed at Coppabella and neighbouring Peabody mine Moorvale. This is just one good news story of rehabilitation from the Bowen Basin.

Through its legislative amendments, the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver our plan to unite and recover by improving rehabilitation outcomes and financial assurance provisions in the resource sector to create jobs that will support regional communities and protect the environment.

This bill allows for the appointment of the independent Rehabilitation Commissioner by the Governor in Council and provides for the functions of that position. Those functions are separate from but complementary to the existing regulatory role of the Department of Environment and Science. The Rehabilitation Commissioner will be tasked with working collaboratively with the community, industry, environmental groups, researchers and the Department of Environment and Science on rehabilitation and management practices and their outcomes. Specifically, the Rehabilitation Commissioner will be asked to provide advice, reports and guidance to the government and industry on best practice

rehabilitation and management of non-use management areas. When I have attended functions that include mining companies, some of them have said to me that they would welcome more guidance and oversight in their rehabilitation. They want to get it right.

I will refer briefly to the Biodiscovery and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill clarifies the relationship between the act and international protocols, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Nagoya protocol and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations International Treaty on Plant and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, known as the FAO Treaty. Clarifying these relationships was a key recommendation of the statutory review and was reinforced through subsequent stakeholder consultation. I commend the bills to the House.