




Speech By  
**James Martin**

**MEMBER FOR STRETTON**

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## **LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (4.25 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging the efforts of the Minister for Resources in developing the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I also acknowledge the committee members and the committee chair, the member for Kurwongbah. This bill ensures that the regulatory frameworks within the resources portfolio remain efficient, effective and responsive to change. It provides a wide range of minor and miscellaneous amendments to legislation and regulations that clarify a policy intent and reduce complexity.

The key objectives of the bill are to modernise land administration and stock route management by putting in place measures that support local government to better manage public lands and recover costs. The bill contains amendments to a long list of acts including the Land Act 1994, the Stock Route Management Act 2002, the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968, the Land Regulation Act, the Land Title Act, the Place Names Act, the Stock Route Management Act, the Surveying and Mapping Infrastructure Act and the Vegetation Management Act 1999. A number of acts that are no longer required will be repealed. They are the Foreign Governments (Title to Land) Act, the Starcke Pastoral Holdings Acquisition Act and the Yeppoon Hospital Site Acquisition Act. A number of errors in the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act and the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 will also be corrected along with minor reference errors to the Forest Wind Farm Development Act 2020, the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 and the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Act 2016.

While the amendments proposed in this bill are minor and administrative in nature, they are nonetheless important in support of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to economic recovery. We are adopting a contemporary approach with this bill by pairing flexibility with prudent safeguards to ensure that the intent of the legislation is much clearer. Amendments proposed to the Land Act 1994 will modernise land administration in Queensland and support our economic growth. It will also enable us to proactively manage the state land portfolio as well as support government at a local level to better manage public lands.

One of the key changes to this legislation that this bill delivers is a more efficient pathway for conversion of any leasehold land that is not of public benefit. In addition, we have thousands of great parks, sporting grounds and recreation facilities across Queensland. Local governments are trustees for these public purpose reserves and this bill will improve the day-to-day management of them by providing greater flexibility in allowing short-term secondary uses of the land.

Amendments will allow local government to manage public land more efficiently in the area by allowing for a wider range of trustee permits to be issued where a trust land management plan is in place. Further amendments will reflect contemporary approaches that support the development of defence training sites in Central and North Queensland, thus delivering economic benefits to regional communities and supporting the Australia-Singapore Military Training Initiative.

Another key part of our great state is the agriculture industry, which is an \$18.5 billion sector. In order to transport Queensland stock across various parts of the state, we need a well-developed network of roads and reserves. There is no doubt that Queensland's stock route network is vital infrastructure with more than 330,000 head of stock moving across the network each year. The network is administered by both state and local governments, but its day-to-day management is the responsibility of the local government in the area. Amendments of the Stock Route Management Act will enable local governments to keep their stock route fees and allow them to charge application fees to cover the administrative costs of assessing the applications they receive.

Local governments will also be able to waive these fees in cases of hardship or drought. The improved cost of recovery will deliver a better managed stock route network and be of huge public benefit to stock route users. It will reduce the level of ratepayer and government subsidisation for the commercial users of the network as well. I thank all of the local governments that participated in the public consultation last year.

As we push forward into the digital age we are seeing fewer newspapers being printed. It is often far easier and quicker to communicate changes through newer forms of media. Another benefit of this legislation is that it removes outdated requirements for placename changes to be published in printed newspapers when that newspaper is no longer in circulation. Instead, notices will now be allowed to be published via other suitable media channels.

This bill also streamlines and improves administrative processes for a variety of different government agencies. Dealings associated with Defence land, road closures, survey standards and water boundary frameworks are just some of the items that will become far more efficient under this bill.

In 2016, amendments were made to the Vegetation Management Act so that terminology was consistent with the Planning Act. This amendment assigned development categories to some of the clearing activities. To further assist the parties making applications under this act, the bill will help to clarify those vegetation management activities; for example, the construction and management of large firebreaks are not prohibited. New amendments have removed any confusion and made the rules clearer.

This bill proposes to amend the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968 so that it is easier for companies to apply to remove a special coalmining lease and transfer some or all of the interests in the removed lease, thus providing more flexibility for certain lease transfers. It ensures the process for consideration of legitimate commercial and operational objectives of the companies, the interests of the state and the public interest in relation to regulation of mining in Queensland. Transfers under these provisions will trigger the usual relevant assessments and requirements, but they will make it easier. This continues the government's support for the mining industry and all of the jobs that it creates.

The Queensland resources industry has underpinned the state's economic development and prosperity for more than a century. Our metals, minerals, coal and gas industries have helped to define our state and are a proud part of Queensland's identity at home and abroad. Every Queenslanders benefits from our resources sector. Mining supports 77,000 jobs in Queensland, many of which are in regional Queensland, and royalties from mining companies help to pay for the services that we all need—good schools, good hospitals and roads—throughout the state.

I note the contribution earlier from the Treasurer. This government is ensuring Queenslanders receive their fair share from our resources, for which we are currently getting record prices. I note the fantastic news today that these royalties will pay for the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline, providing water security to Queenslanders and, of course, jobs.

In conclusion, the policy objectives of this bill are to make regulatory frameworks clearer, more efficient and more effective. The amendments reduce complexity and help to modernise land and agriculture administration in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.