




Speech By  
**Hon. Scott Stewart**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (6.37 pm): I rise to speak on the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Our government has long held the position that we support resource projects so long as they stack up environmentally, financially and socially, and our position has not changed. All industries, regardless of whether they are resources, manufacturing or agriculture, must act in a way that is environmentally sustainable while also supporting good jobs and economic growth. That is what this bill is all about: supporting the environment while continuing to support the good jobs a sustainable resource industry generates.

It is important that we continue to work with all stakeholders. This bill provides greater certainty for the community and industry. I have been engaged with Minister Scanlon throughout the process and the development of this bill and I welcome the extensive consultation they did on the initial drafts.

It is important that all stakeholders' views are taken into consideration, and that is how good governments operate. As the Minister for Resources, I met with a number of industry stakeholders to listen to their feedback on the drafts, including Ian Macfarlane from the Queensland Resources Council. When I spoke to Minister Scanlon about a number of the concerns that they raised with me, she was more than happy to meet and listen to that feedback. In fact, we met on several occasions and we will continue to do so on a range of issues. Working together across government and with stakeholders is what will benefit all Queenslanders.

The other part of the bill I would like to talk about is the amendments which will allow the administering authority to issue temporary authorities during an emergency situation. This is important, as it will help support operators do what is needed in an emergency situation without needing to go through the full environmental authority application process. This includes during flood situations which at times are unprecedented such as what we have seen in the North West Minerals Province particularly. It is important that we have this option. As I said before, it comes back to working together as this will benefit all of us. I commend the bill to the House.