

~~We also know that the federal budget has increased federal taxes and reduced services so, in this new context, I support the position that the government must consider the sale or lease of government owned assets to reduce the state's debt and interest bill. This will enable investment in new infrastructure like roads, hospitals and schools, while keeping debt at a sustainable level to bolster Queensland's future prosperity. It is now the strongest and smartest choice, and I look forward to continuing this conversation with residents in my electorate.~~

~~Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Treasurer for his continued diligence and hard work in pursuing economically sound and financially prudent measures which confirms that this strong team is the only one with a strong plan for a brighter future. >~~


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~~Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.30 pm.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Mr Pitt, adjourned.~~

<MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (COMMON PROVISIONS) BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the first step in creating a simplified common framework for managing resource authorities in order to optimise development and use of Queensland's mineral and energy resources and to manage overlapping coal and petroleum resource authorities for coal seam gas, and further to repeal the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers' Superannuation Act 1989, and to amend this act, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Land Court Act 2000, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mount Isa Mines Limited Agreement Act 1985, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Property Law Act 1974, the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014.

Tabled paper: Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014 which delivers a strong plan for a brighter future for one of Queensland's four economic pillars—the resources sector. This bill contains a number of vital reforms that will assist economic development in Queensland by reducing the complexity, volume and duplication contained within existing legislation for the resources sector.

The bill will deliver on a range of government commitments and initiatives that take a significant step towards modernising and streamlining Queensland's resources legislation. In particular, this is the first stage in creating a single, common resources act under the landmark Modernising Queensland's Resources Acts Program for the mining, petroleum and gas, greenhouse gas storage and geothermal energy sectors.

It also makes a number of other key amendments to create a new framework to resolve overlapping tenure issues between coal and coal seam gas tenures, reform land access arrangements, reduce red tape for mining applicants—including the small-scale alluvial mining sector—and enable government and industry to address uncontrolled gas emissions from legacy bore holes. The Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014 will also enable more efficient use of incidental coal seam gas produced during coalmining and, more broadly, will reduce the regulatory burden on Queensland's resources sector.

This bill starts the Modernising Queensland's Resources Acts Program reform process by creating the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act into which harmonised provisions from the five resource acts can be migrated. The act will operate alongside the existing resources legislation and will be used as a transitional act until all remaining provisions can be transitioned into a final common mineral and energy resources act. As well as creating the new common provisions act, this bill migrates the first package of legislative content to the new act. The provisions being migrated from the five resource acts include dealings, caveats and associated agreements, and the land access framework. In some cases minor changes have been required to give consistency across resource types.

The amendments I am introducing establish a new framework to manage overlapping coal and coal seam gas tenures. This is one of the key commitments of the Newman government's current six-month action plan to support and grow Queensland's resources sector. The current overlapping tenure framework has not kept pace with developments in conventional coalmining or the relatively new and rapidly expanding coal seam gas industry. The Newman government listened to and worked with industry and together we have developed a new, practical framework that overcomes the complexities and uncertainties of the current framework.

The new framework provides a direct path to grant for both coal and coal seam gas production tenures, a 'right of way' for coalmining tenure holders to develop coal deposits, and a less adversarial dispute resolution process. This new framework will encourage both industries to cooperate to optimise the development and use of the state's resources which will maximise the benefits of the industry for local communities, the regions and all Queenslanders.

This bill also delivers on the Newman government's six-point action plan to reform the land access framework, which addresses specific industry and landholder concerns. The bill will give effect to the Land Access Implementation Committee's recommendations that require legislative changes, which include: expanding the Land Court's jurisdiction to hear conduct matters when considering conduct and compensation agreements; requiring that conduct and compensation agreements be noted on the relevant property title; and allowing two willing parties to opt out of entering a formal conduct and compensation agreement.

The bill also implements a consistent restricted land framework across all resources types that will provide landholders and resource companies with greater certainty of their rights and obligations for gaining access to private land near residences and other infrastructure. Resource companies must have the consent of the landholder to undertake resource activities near infrastructure such as residences. The bill provides for increased restricted land for landholders engaging with coal and mineral companies and, for the first time, will provide landholders with the right to choose whether or not coal seam gas activities can occur near their home. Restricted land also extends beyond the boundary of the resource authority, offering the same protections to neighbouring landholders.

Further amendments are proposed to provide for greater flexibility when dealing with and administering restricted land within a mining lease. It is proposed that when a mining lease is issued over the entire area of the application, restricted land within the lease will not be able to be developed until consent from the landholder is obtained. The one exception to this proposal is where a mine is assessed as requiring access to the entire surface of the land, such as for an open-cut mine. In such situations it is proposed that landowner consent will no longer be required for activities within the restricted land. However, the resource authority holder must enter into a compensation agreement with the landowner. Further, the landholder retains the right to object to the removal of the consent rights for activities on restricted land in the Land Court.

Also, the bill further delivers on the government's commitment to reduce red tape for the small-scale alluvial mining sector and the broader mining industry. The amendments in the bill provide greater flexibility in tenure application processes, reduced costs and greater certainty about assessment time frames. While these amendments are specifically targeted at small-scale alluvial miners, these reforms will also benefit the broader mining sector. In particular, the bill amends the notification and objection process for mining lease applications, removing duplication and creating more streamlined and efficient processes between the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The reform process takes into account the risk and the size and impact of the mining operation in determining the notification and objection process.

Additional amendments clarify the matters that the Land Court can consider when hearing objections to mining leases to remove duplication between resources and environmental protection legislation. The bill also establishes more flexible and less prescriptive options for identifying the boundaries of mining leases and claims while ensuring they are still clear and unambiguous and able to be located on the ground.

023 My department has also been working with the coal mining and coal seam gas industries to deliver safe, best practice solutions in the form of a protocol for managing uncontrolled gas emissions from legacy boreholes. The bill includes amendments that support the protocol to allow urgent remediation action where boreholes present a safety risk.

Other amendments in this bill include repealing the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers' Superannuation Act 1989 to give coal and oil shale mine workers freedom of choice with regard to their superannuation investment; reducing usage restrictions on incidental coal seam gas developed

as a by-product of coal mining; and removing redundant requirements imposed on a holder of an authority to prospect, petroleum lease and mining tenement that are largely administrative and impose unnecessary regulatory burden on the holder's operations, such as the requirement for a petroleum tenure holder to lodge a notice about a petroleum discovery and its commercial viability.

The value of the raw, stand-alone information provided in these notices outside of a contextual setting is of little value to the government and places an extra level of red tape on petroleum tenure holders. The bill also removes obsolete environmental provisions in the Mount Isa Mines Limited Agreement Act 1985 to reflect the transition of the environmental regulation of the mine to the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The government has a strong plan to reduce red tape and drive investment certainty in the resources sector. These reforms will support a brighter future for a strong resources sector in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House. >

First Reading

Hon. AP CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.41 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.

~~APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL~~


~~APPROPRIATION BILL~~

~~REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading (Cognate Debate)~~

~~Resumed from p. 2113, on motion of Mr Nicholls~~

~~That the bills be now read a second time.~~

~~ **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (2.41 pm): This is the Newman government's third budget of broken promises. At the outset, I note that this budget already has a \$223 million black hole thanks to the backflip on pensioner concessions only necessary because of the Premier's black heart in the first place. This is not a budget in the interests of working Queenslanders. It is a budget for the boardroom, not a budget for the battlers or Queensland families. It is a budget for the biggest asset sell-off in our state's history, not a budget for jobs. It is a budget that confirms the dismal economic and fiscal management of the Newman LNP government.~~

~~Ahead of the budget, the Treasurer has spent \$6 million of taxpayers' money on a political propaganda campaign to try to hoodwink Queenslanders into thinking that asset sales are a good idea. This campaign pretended to consult with Queenslanders about so-called strong choices, but the outcome was always predetermined. After the first stage of this political propaganda campaign, the Treasurer released a document entitled *The Strongest and Smartest Choice* in order to claim that asset sales are the only way. This is the height of arrogance from this Treasurer and the Newman LNP government. To go out and say that we want to hear from Queenslanders about their strong choices and then say to people that their choices were not smart enough is an insult.~~

~~There is a good reason why the Treasurer did not include this asset sales manifesto with the other budget papers: it was to hide them. But most of all the Treasurer really did not want anyone to look at the broken promises confirmed in these budget papers. There was the broken promise to lower electricity bills by \$120 a year bills that are now set to rise by \$560 since the Newman government came to power; the promise that formed the basis of the Treasurer's last budget reply speech in opposition; the broken promise to lower water bills, with the peak price path now tracking~~