

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

REPORT NO. 26, 56th PARLIAMENT ON THE

MINERAL RESOURCES (GALILEE BASIN) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION

On 31 October 2018, the Mineral Resources (Galilee Basin) Amendment Bill 2018 (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament.

The Bill was subsequently referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee (the committee). On 18 April 2019, the committee tabled its report no. 26, 56th Parliament in relation to the Bill.

The committee in its report made two recommendations, the first of which recommended the Bill not be passed.

The second recommendation was directed to the Queensland Government. The government's response is provided below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 2

The committee recommends that the Queensland Government advocate for a consistent national framework for climate change policy and emissions targets, as the current federal policy instability may hinder Queensland's adoption of future climate change actions and pathways.

Government Response

The government thanks the committee for the recommendation.

The Queensland Government supports the goals of the Paris Agreement to limit warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees.

Queensland is committed to playing its part in the national and global effort to tackle climate change. The Queensland Government has worked with other states and territories to advocate for strong national action on climate change policy and emission reduction targets. The Queensland Government will continue to work with the re-elected Morrison Coalition Government and other state governments to take action on climate change.

Significant state, national and international action on climate change will be important to securing the future of Queensland's economy, regional prosperity and natural environment and is particularly important to protecting the Great Barrier Reef for future generations.

The Queensland Government has taken, and will continue to take, decisive action to address climate change.

The Queensland Climate Change Response, released in mid-2017, includes both the *Queensland Climate Transition Strategy* (QCTS) and the *Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy*. Under the QCTS, the Queensland Government has set a target of achieving zero net emissions by 2050, with an interim target of reducing emissions by at least 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Considerable work is underway to decarbonise the energy sector and put Queensland on the path to zero net emissions by 2050. Key energy policies supporting this transition include the *Powering Queensland Plan* and the 50 per cent Queensland Renewable Energy Target, which includes the establishment of Queensland's state-owned clean electricity generator, CleanCo. Other programs include: the highly successful ecoBiz; de-carbonising remote communities in Far-North Queensland; Advancing Clean Energy Schools; interest-free loans for solar and storage; and the *Advance Queensland 10-year Biofutures Roadmap*.

The Queensland Government has reinforced its commitment to developing a world-class sustainable hydrogen industry by releasing the *Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy 2019-2024*. \$19 million has been allocated to help kick-start the hydrogen industry in Queensland.

In transport, Queensland has begun preparing for a transition to electric vehicles that will diversify the economy with new products, services and jobs, and reduce vehicle emissions and their impact on the environment and communities. This is reflected in the Queensland Government's *The Future is Electric: Queensland's Electric Vehicle Strategy*, including the Queensland Electric Super Highway network—the world's longest electric vehicle superhighway within a single state.

The Queensland Government has also established a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund, which aims to expand carbon farming in the State by supporting land-sector projects that deliver clear environmental, social and economic co-benefits. The Fund announced \$5 million for pilot projects in late 2018 to kick-start and catalyse activity in the carbon farming industry.

The Queensland Government will continue to develop and implement policies and initiatives to support the achievement of emissions targets, and to respond to the challenges of climate change.

However, tackling climate change is not something Queensland can do alone.

That is why the Queensland Government concurs with the Committee's recommendation and will continue to advocate for a stable, integrated national climate and energy policy.