

~~Violet's son, who is now 82 and who still lives in Ipswich. He wrote about how happy he was to see me win and how proud Vi would have been to see a Labor woman elected as the first state member for Jordan, a seat named in her honour. Something that Violet Jordan would have understood, and something that I always remind myself of, is that politics is about hard work, certainly, but there is always an element of luck and timing.~~

~~I have been particularly fortunate to have been surrounded by some amazing people who have looked out for me, supported me and pushed me forward even when I have shown reluctance or fear. I want to thank some former members of parliament who have been mentors to me: Jim Elder, John Mickel, Desley Boyle and the late Nita Cunningham. I want to thank current members of this House who have been loyal friends for over 20 years: the Premier and member for Inala; the member for Woodridge; the member for Sandgate; and the member for Logan.~~

~~I want to thank Milton Dick, who has been one of my closest friends for the last 25 years. Like all good friendships it has ebbed and flowed over those years, but I have to say that for the last year that friendship has overflowed. Milton showed me incredible support and encouragement in his desire to help me win the seat. He is undoubtedly one of the best campaigners around and I have learned so much from him. What I have learned most is that, if you truly care for people and if you want the best for them, it shows through no matter how slick the campaign is. To be authentic is the best campaign tool you can have, and Milton taught me that. I will be beside him fighting to see him re-elected as the federal member for Oxley and to repay all of the incredible goodwill and support he has shown me.~~

~~To Jacki Power and Justine Bond—my friends forever with whom I would entrust with my life—Sarah Mawhinney, Daniel Cheverton and Anika Wells: thank you for your support and for keeping me sane. To all of the wonderful members of the ALP and greater Springfield branch, in particular our amazing campaign team Sharon Mitchell, Riley Williamson, Jon Persley, Brent Cue, Dylan Kerr and Michael Quirk: I could not have done this without you all. To my union, the AWU: I always said that working at the AWU was like coming home, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have fought for the industrial and social interests of working people in this state. Thank you Ben Swan, Steve Baker, Mark Raguse and the amazing union team.~~

~~I want to thank my family. My dad and mum, Leon and Kathy, raised me to be a believer in a fairer world, a just world, a world where we are equal and where we want the very best for people. I did not need anything more from them. I want to thank my father-in-law, Vince, and late mother-in-law, Maxine, for warmly welcoming this city girl into their Dimbulah lives; my brothers, for never letting me get too big for my boots but who always showed me incredible love; and finally my husband Sean and my daughters Zoe and Mary. We always said that this would be an adventure for our family. You knew this was something I needed to do so that I would never wonder 'what if'. I am so grateful to you for allowing me this opportunity and I am so excited to see what our future holds. Cavafy finishes his poem by saying—~~

~~Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.~~

~~Without her you would never have taken the road.~~

~~But she has nothing more to give you.~~

~~And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not defrauded you.~~

~~With the great wisdom you have gained, with so much experience, you must surely have understood by then what Ithaca's mean.~~

~~It seems strange to think about the end of your parliamentary career as you deliver your first speech, but I believe that the best politicians are the ones that have an end date in mind—if, of course, the electorate does not decide it for you. They are the most effective in this House because they know they have a small window of opportunity to make a significant contribution and difference to the lives of their constituents and to the state of Queensland. I hope that at the end of this amazing journey in the Queensland parliament I too will understand what my Ithaca meant.~~

~~Debate, on motion of Ms D'Ath, adjourned.~~

## MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.48 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message recommends the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—

A Bill for an Act to establish a financial provisioning scheme to deal with the environmental impacts of resource activities, and to amend this Act, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 February 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018.

### Introduction

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.48 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish a financial provisioning scheme to deal with the environmental impacts of resource activities, and to amend this act, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018, explanatory notes.

Mining and resources industries are part of Queensland's past, present and future. These industries contribute significantly to the economy, create jobs and support our local communities. Developing the wide variety of resources naturally found in Queensland such as coal, minerals and gas has allowed Queensland to grow into a prosperous state and benefitted all of us. Queenslanders recognise that mining activity does not have to come at the expense of the environment. Companies have obligations to manage their operations to minimise impacts to the community and ensure that they clean up as they go. Most mining companies are good corporate citizens and generally meet their financial and environmental obligations.

However, when companies do not manage their sites to ensure that environmental impacts are managed and progressive rehabilitation occurs over the life of the mine or the rehabilitation outcomes are not clear, the risks to the state, the environment and communities increase. In 2016 industry and community expressed concerns regarding the effectiveness of the current financial assurance framework such as the impact of the current framework on investment in the industry and the performance of resource site rehabilitation. Recently, cases of resource companies unable to complete their rehabilitation activities have further highlighted issues with the framework. These issues are significant for the Queensland government and have resulted in a large financial burden for the state. They must be addressed to ensure the long-term sustainability of this important industry. A review by Queensland Treasury, the Department of Environment and Science, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Queensland Treasury Corporation, QTC—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Sorry, Deputy Premier. Members of the House, while you are congratulating the particular member on their maiden speech, I ask that you do it quietly. We still have business that we are conducting.

**Ms TRAD:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I will congratulate the member for Jordan as soon as I finish my introduction speech.

This review by the Department of Environment and Science, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Treasury Corporation and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy found that the current framework could be improved to achieve better environmental performance, better protection of the state's financial risks as well as support the resource sector's continued presence in our state.

The review also showed that this is a complex problem. There is not a simple solution, but this government does not shy away from a challenge. That is why, during the last term, the Palaszczuk Labor government embarked on a major program of reform of the mine rehabilitation and financial assurance regime to better protect the environment and taxpayers and encourage jobs, more investment and growth in the resources sector. The development of these reforms is a clear demonstration of this government's commitment to consultation. Departmental officers have extensively consulted with the industry, with the public and with community groups on each of the key reforms, travelling the state to hear their views in person and ensure that their concerns could be addressed. Key stakeholders from the industry and from environmental and community groups have been engaged throughout the process, collaborating and problem solving to ensure a balance between the needs of the mining sector and environmental and financial protection is reached.

These reforms represent the most significant upgrade to Queensland's multibillion-dollar resource sector financial assurance and rehabilitation framework in nearly 20 years. While the full package of mine rehabilitation and financial assurance reforms will be rolled out over a few years, change and implementation begins now with this bill. In addition to the central reforms of the bill and following consultation with beverage manufacturers, the recycling sector and local governments, this bill contains an amendment to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017 which will change the commencement of the container refund scheme from 1 July 2018 to 1 November 2018 to ensure a successful container refund scheme is delivered on commencement. Together, the implementation of the container refund scheme, the financial assurance framework and progressive rehabilitation demonstrates the government's commitment to a consultative approach to practical environmental reform.

This bill is the key component of a package of reforms to improve the environmental management of the mining and petroleum and gas industries, particularly around the rehabilitation of sites used for resource extraction as well as managing legacy mine sites. The bill introduces two major reforms. Firstly, this bill establishes an improved financial assurance scheme to better manage the state's financial risk. The government requires financial assurance from resource companies to use as a last resort when a company does not meet its environmental obligations. The innovative new scheme proposed combines the best of worldwide financial assurance schemes to enable the state to proportionately manage its risks and provide balance sheet relief to those companies most highly rated while ensuring full coverage of rehabilitation liability where needed.

The redesigned financial assurance framework is tailored to manage operators based on their size and level of risk. The scheme manager will assess all companies with relevant resource projects to determine their risk of defaulting and subsequently leaving the costs of rehabilitation to the state. Each project will be individually assessed under the scheme and many will make an annual contribution to the pooled fund. This contribution will be calculated for each project by applying their assessed risk based rate to the total cost of rehabilitating land disturbed by mining activities. There will be thresholds applied to the pooled fund to ensure its financial integrity. The pooled fund was recommended by the review and provides benefits to both resource companies and the government. Companies that contribute to the fund will have small annual payments rather than the need to provide very large bank guarantees and the government will have a pool of funds to draw on to rehabilitate a site when a company has not fulfilled its obligations. Other operators which the scheme manages assessed as carrying a higher risk for a variety of reasons will be required to provide surety for the full amount of rehabilitation liability. For the companies required to provide sureties, the bill provides for more options than currently available such as insurance bonds.

The other part of the bill amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to implement the rehabilitation reforms. These reforms will ensure land disturbed by mining activities is rehabilitated to a safe and stable land form that does not cause environmental harm and can sustain an approved post mining land use. The bill introduces a requirement for mining companies with site specific environmental authority approvals to develop a progressive rehabilitation and closure plan for its current operations which will be assessed and approved by the environmental regulator. Progressive rehabilitation and closure plans will be required when a company applies for a site specific environmental authority for a mining lease. By requiring companies to plan for closure from the beginning, progressive rehabilitation can be factored in to day-to-day mine operations, making completion of rehabilitation more likely. By requiring ongoing progressive rehabilitation, these reforms will encourage improved mine design and encourage regional job opportunities in the developing mine rehabilitation industry. Communities will appreciate having publicly available progressive rehabilitation and closure plans that demonstrate how mine land will be rehabilitated over a mine's life and a clear picture of what the final land use will be.

In addition to ensuring rehabilitation standards are met and progressive rehabilitation is planned for, the system delivers on transparent community engagement processes and a robust audit and reporting mechanism to track rehabilitation performance. The two parts of the bill are closely interconnected and have been developed together to encourage better rehabilitation over the life of the mine while covering the risks to the state if it does not occur or if the company walks away. These reforms in themselves are a huge step forward, but it does not end there. These two reforms are part of a comprehensive package of measures that will support and enhance rehabilitation outcomes. More information on these measures, including expansion of the abandoned mines program and enhanced policy on the residual risk regime, will be provided in coming weeks and months.

The policy underlying these reforms and this bill is based on an extensive review by Queensland Treasury, the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy of the existing financial assurance laws and has benefited from the independent research and financial modelling undertaken by QTC. Departments across governments have come together to develop these reforms, ensuring the new scheme is fair, efficient and integrated, and I thank them for their cross-agency collaboration. Subject to the passage of this bill, the new financial provisioning scheme will commence mid-2018, with a three-year transition period for existing operations. The rehabilitation requirements will commence in early 2019 in order to better prepare industry and government and existing operations will be transitioned to the new requirement over three years to ensure a smooth transition. The government has received constructive and useful feedback from the community, industry reference groups, resource companies and environmental organisations throughout this reform process and I want to thank them all for their time and their valuable contribution and efforts. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.58 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 Economics and Governance Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

### ~~Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date~~

~~**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.58 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—~~

~~That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Economics and Governance Committee report to the House on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill by 20 April 2018.~~

~~Question put—That the motion be agreed to.~~

~~Motion agreed to.~~

## ~~GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

### ~~Introduction~~

~~ **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Integrity Act 2009, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.~~