

~~The shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships issued a media release last week saying—~~

~~The Palaszczuk Government can't point to a single home it has built in remote indigenous communities with state money.~~

~~Let us spend a moment setting the record straight. Under the national partnership agreement with the Commonwealth there have been 1,144 homes constructed. In addition, this government has contributed \$652 million over 10 years to upgrading and maintaining those homes. In addition to that investment, in the communities of Cherbourg, the Torres shire and Yarrabah this state has built 116 homes entirely outside of the partnership program. For the benefit of the member for Moggill, the member for Nanango and the member for Burleigh, here I am pointing to one of those homes constructed outside that program. I table that.~~

~~Tabled paper: Photograph depicting the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, Hon. Mick de Brenni, outside a newly constructed house.~~

~~Whilst those opposite were in government they built as few as 17 homes per year. On average the Palaszczuk government has constructed 271 homes per year with 600 new homes commencing this year. Those opposite are quick to criticise, but they are unable to bring themselves to end their policy of denial. It seems they are unable to stand up for Queenslanders and call on the Prime Minister to recommit to Closing the Gap.~~

### ~~Waste Levy~~

~~**Mr HART:** My question is to the Premier. The Housing Industry Association estimates that the government's proposed waste tax will add \$2,000 to the cost of a new home. What offsets will the Palaszczuk government make available to new home buyers to make sure they are not paying more because of Labor's new tax?~~

~~**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Premier. You have one minute.~~

~~**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. With the demolition of Coprint, 97 per cent went to recycling. In this state we want to develop more recycling, which will mean more jobs. We will always support the housing industry in this state, as we have with our First Home Owners Grant of \$20,000 for people wanting to build their first home. I say very clearly to those opposite: you are either with Queensland or you are against Queensland; you are either standing up for Queensland or you are standing up for New South Wales. That is the clear choice when it comes to this waste levy. We are going to stop the trucks. We are going to stop the dumping of waste in this state. We are going to back Queensland and those opposite are going to back New South Wales.~~

~~**Mr SPEAKER:** Thankfully the time for question time has expired.~~

## MINES LEGISLATION (RESOURCES SAFETY) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (11.13 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999 and the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018.

*Tabled paper:* Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes.

The priority initiatives in the Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill were first presented to the House on 7 September 2017, but lapsed when parliament was dissolved prior to the last election. The intervening period has provided further opportunity for consultation with key stakeholders to add to the extensive and ongoing consultation to date for many of the initiatives.

The Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2018 reintroduces key amendments and includes minor amendments to the provisions introduced in 2017 in light of the parliamentary committee and recent consultation. Queensland's mining safety and health legislation continues to be regarded as among the best in the world, but we must be vigilant and we should aim to continually improve Queensland's mining safety and health record.

To continue to improve Queensland's mining safety and health standards and outcomes for our mining workers, we must remedy any weaknesses in our mining safety and health laws. The Palaszczuk government is addressing key mining safety and health issues through the re-introduction of these priority reforms. The Palaszczuk government is committed to the safety and health of all workers across all industries. All workers have the right to expect that their safety and health will be protected whilst at work. We will continue to strengthen safety and health protections for workers so that workers do not fear that workplace risks or hazards will injure them, make them ill or worse.

Our coal and metals miners work in an industry that is a major part of Queensland's economy and prosperity, but we must not forget that mining is a hazardous industry with unique hazards and risks to our workers' safety and health. As part of the Palaszczuk government's overarching commitment to all workers, this bill will ensure Queensland's mining safety and health legislation will be more effective in protecting the safety and health of our coalmining workers and metal mining and quarrying workers.

Tripartite consultation with unions and industry has been instrumental in finalising the proposals and I thank all stakeholders for their contribution during the ongoing consultation processes. This tripartite consultation has been extensive and has continued over recent years for many of the initiatives in order to address stakeholder concerns and to refine the details. As well as consultation through the statutory advisory committees, consultation has also occurred more recently through tripartite reference groups.

Some of the minor changes in this re-introduced bill are based on stakeholder feedback during the parliamentary committee consultation processes in 2017. Collectively, the initiatives will provide greater transparency and accountability, improve compliance and enforcement of safety and health standards, or improve mine safety and health standards or systems. There will be greater transparency and accountability in the training and competency of ventilation officers. Underground coalmining ventilation officers are in safety-critical roles at underground coalmines. They are responsible for crucial tasks such as ensuring adequate air quality and ventilation of the mine, gas alarm level settings and monitoring methane, noxious and flammable gases and other contaminants. Underground coalmine ventilation officers will have a transitional period of three years within which to obtain a certificate of competency as an additional assurance of their competency. There will also be statutory competency requirements for ventilation officers in underground metals mines. Other reforms will enable the development of a scheme of continuing professional education for holders of certificates of competency, helping to ensure the competency standards of those in safety-critical roles at mines over time.

The bill strengthens and expands the range of compliance and enforcement options for serious safety and health breaches of the legislation by introducing the options of civil penalties or cancellation or suspension of a holder's statutory certificates of competency or other competencies. These new enforcement powers add to the broad range of current inspector powers, such as directives to reduce risk or to suspend mining operations, and are swifter options than the option to prosecute. Under these reforms, the chief executive will have the powers to fine mine operators or contractor corporations for serious safety and health breaches through civil penalties of up to 1,000 penalty units, or \$126,000, and to suspend or cancel an individual's certificate of competency or other competencies.

012 The bill also increases maximum penalties for breaches of mining safety and health obligations, to keep more in step with maximum penalties under general workplace safety and health legislation. The initiatives also clarify the entry powers of inspectors to off mine site workplaces, for example, machinery maintenance workshops that may affect the safety and health of workers at mines.

Other reforms in the bill strengthen the accountability of mine operators and contractor corporations by placing proactive due diligence mining safety and health obligations on officers of corporations, and enable responsibility for the notification of reportable diseases to be placed on a broader range of individuals so that my department is notified when a worker is diagnosed with an occupational disease, such as a mine lung dust disease.

Other reforms to provide greater transparency and accountability include the requirement for manufacturers and suppliers to mine sites to notify the chief inspectors of any hazardous or defective equipment or substances supplied to the site. The bill proposes to balance Mines Inspectorate representation on tripartite statutory advisory committees, to enable a public register of certificate of competency holders and to facilitate the earliest possible release of safety information after an incident for relevant safety learnings at other mines.

Initiatives to improve safety and health management systems include improving contractor management within a mine's single safety and health management system. This will help protect

contractor workers who may be less familiar with hazards and risks at a mine. The amendments will ensure all workers, including contractors, at a mine are following safety critical procedures within the overarching, single safety and health management system.

Operators of small opal and gem mines with five to 10 workers will no longer be exempt from the requirement to have a safety and health management system for their mine, to better manage the main hazards and risks to workers' safety and health. My department will work with those small opal and gem miners to assist them to develop a safety and health management system during the three-year transitional period and will continue to provide educational guidance about risk management for small opal and gem mines with four or fewer workers, which will continue to be exempt from the need to have a safety and health management system.

Health surveillance of current and former mining workers will be added to the objectives of the acts and will reflect the importance of health surveillance as part of a mine's safety and health management system. This bill is a significant step forward in improving safety and health in Queensland's coal and metals mining industries through more effective legislation, by introducing measures to better safeguard our coal mine and metal mine workers.

This bill does not include the introduction of industrial manslaughter to the resources safety legislation. Given the importance of this consideration and in order to appropriately progress this matter, I have asked my department to commence stakeholder engagement with key stakeholders, including industry and unions. Any changes to introduce this and related changes, including dispute resolution through the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the right of entry for union representatives, will be the subject of a future bill. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (11.22 am): 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 State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

## ~~DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (WORKER SCREENING) AMENDMENT BILL~~

### ~~Introduction~~

~~**Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.23 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006 and the Police Service Administration Act 1990 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.~~

~~Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018.~~

~~Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes.~~

~~As the Minister for Disability Services, I am very pleased to be leading Queensland's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The key reason I am pleased is that the NDIS means more choice and control for people with disability about how they receive reasonable and necessary supports. Each jurisdiction in Australia will transition to full scheme implementation of the NDIS in accordance with individual bilateral agreements and at different stages. Queensland has started this transition and it is imperative we ensure that a robust quality and safeguards system is in place, both during transition and once full scheme implementation commences in Queensland from 1 July 2019.~~