

~~Finally, the bill makes provision for disasters to be declared proactively where there is reasonable likelihood that the powers provided during a disaster will be necessary. This will allow our police and emergency services personnel to stay ahead of the game when a disaster is pending. The collective effect of these amendments will be to further improve the agility of our system in responding to disasters. I commend the bill to the House.~~

~~Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.30 pm.~~

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

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NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2)

First Reading

Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Alcan Queensland Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1965, the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1957, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Holidays Act 1983, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the South Bank Corporation Act 1989, the Vegetation Management Act 1999 and the Water Act 2000, for particular purposes. I present the explanatory notes, and 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.

Tabled paper: Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Tabled paper: Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (No. 2), explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Hon. S ROBERTSON (Stretton—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade) (2.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill is the latest step in the Bligh government's delivery of a smart regulatory environment in Queensland. Environmental regulation for landholders in Queensland has become increasingly complex, often requiring multiple approvals under different pieces of legislation for undertaking land management activities. This bill will make it easier for Queenslanders to undertake land management activities without compromising the existing standards of environmental regulation.

This bill harmonises the requirements for clearing native vegetation under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999. This will simplify regulatory processes and increase compliance under the acts while preserving the rigour of existing nature conservation objectives. Importantly, this bill amends the Nature Conservation Act to reflect considerations of public safety by enabling clearing of protected plants in response to an imminent risk of danger, such as the threat of fire.

This bill also amends the Vegetation Management Act to create an alternative regulatory framework which will streamline approval processes and facilitate holistic resource management planning. The framework will enable entities, such as natural resource management groups, to prepare area management plans which cover multiple properties. Individual landholders will be able to undertake certain low-risk land management activities in accordance with a plan without the need for a separate individual approval. Under the framework, landholders who are parties to existing regulatory stewardship agreements will also be able to undertake certain land management activities without the need for a separate approval. This will support the uptake of land stewardship agreements with the government. This framework will provide the foundation for progressing further regulatory reform to achieve efficiencies for landholders and deliver positive environmental outcomes for Queensland.

In August of this year, I announced the government's move to ban petroleum compounds containing benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene or xylene, commonly referred to as B-TEX, from use in coal seam gas operations or stimulation—or fracking—activities. This bill amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to give effect to this government commitment. Although I acknowledge that industry has assured me that these chemicals are not currently used, this amendment ensures the protection of the community and the environment by legislating to ban B-TEX from ever being used in Queensland.

Further amendments to the Environmental Protection Act will improve notification where there is an incident that causes serious or material environmental harm, requiring the responsible person to

notify both the Department of Environment and Resource Management and all affected occupiers of land within 24 hours of an incident. In recognition of the potentially serious consequences where notification is not given, the penalty is being increased from 100 penalty units to 500 penalty units.

Also, this bill amends the Petroleum and Gas (Safety and Production) Act 2004 and the Petroleum Act 1923. To improve transparency for landholders about fracking and other activities on their properties, the notice requirements will be extended, requiring prior notification to be given to landholders.

The bill also amends the Water Act 2000, the Alcan Queensland Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1965 and the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1957 to provide for the relocation and defining of Rio Tinto Aluminium Ltd's water rights from the agreement acts to the Water Act. Rio Tinto Aluminium Ltd has agreed to reduce the authorised take of water from the Wenlock wild river area. The authorised take of water will be reduced from a potential theoretical volume of 2,952,000 megalitres per annum to a maximum volume of 90,000 megalitres per annum. This is a reduction from approximately 80 per cent of the Wenlock Basin's mean annual flow down to 2.45 per cent of the mean annual flow. This will provide certainty for future allocation of water within the Wenlock wild river area.

This bill proposes a number of legislative amendments to facilitate the internal restructure of Rio Tinto Ltd. These amendments clarify the processes and requirements for amending the agreements under the agreement acts. Additionally, the amendments ensure transitional authorities for agreement act mines can be transferred to wholly owned subsidiaries without the transitional authority ending. The amendments will ensure all references to Comalco Ltd in the Holidays Act 1983 extend to that company's successors and permitted assigns.

This bill will also amend the Geothermal Energy Act 2010 and ultimately the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to ensure consistency with all other resource acts in terms of the new land access framework. Transitional provisions will be introduced for the mineral and coal exploration sectors, extending the time period allowed for negotiating conduct and compensation agreements with relevant landholders. The transitional arrangements will ease the impact of the reforms on a majority of junior and small industry players in the mineral and coal exploration sector.

Finally, this bill will amend the South Bank Corporation Act 1989 to include within the commercial precinct at South Bank two parcels of land on the corner of Grey and Vulture streets which are intended to be included in the South Point development between Tribune, Grey and Vulture streets. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Sorensen, adjourned.

~~DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Resumed from p. 3520, on motion of Mr Roberts~~

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

~~Mr MESSENGER (Burnett Ind) (2.36 pm): I rise to speak to the Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. Queensland is susceptible to many forms of disasters bushfires, floods, tropical cyclones, storms and therefore it is important that effective disaster management systems are in place to prepare us for the worst and to ensure an increase in community safety and a reduction in the impact of those particular disasters. The *Australian Journal of Emergency Management Volume 24 No. 1* of February 2009 estimates that disasters cause more than \$1.4 billion worth of damage every year throughout Australia to homes, businesses and our nation's infrastructure along with disruption to communities.~~

~~The strategic objectives of this bill are to amend the Disaster Management Act 2003 and the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 to clarify the objectives of the disaster management system, clarify the roles of state and local governments in relation to the SES, reallocate roles and create new roles in disaster management groups, amend the processes and requirements for declaring a disaster situation, establish temporary disaster districts and create the new roles of state disaster coordinator and state recovery coordinator.~~

~~Overall, this bill will increase the capacity of our communities to respond to a disaster and for that reason I will be supporting it. In doing so, I would like to pay tribute to the State Emergency Service, the volunteers of the SES and the firefighters both the rural firefighters and the urban firefighters who these days are working together more and more. We saw that cooperation at Gaeta the fire in the Burnett. I would also like to acknowledge the first responders and, of course, the ambulance officers. In doing so, I would also like to extend the tribute to the surf lifesavers who are not traditionally thought of as part of the official response but who certainly now are. When you think about how well trained those particular volunteers are their ability to operate rubber duckies in fast water, their resuscitation skills and their organisational skills it has been a long time coming. We should have invited the surf~~