

The bill contains amendments to section 20 of the Water Act 2000 to provide a mechanism for the state or local government to take water for the purpose of construction or maintenance of state infrastructure—for example, public roads, state railways, pipelines—across multiple water sources without a water licence or permit. This is an important amendment as it will significantly reduce the regulatory administration and burden on constructing authorities and the department by removing the need for obtaining a water licence or permit under the Water Act before accessing water necessary for construction activities.

The amendment will enable more timely access to water by these authorities for the maintenance and construction of community infrastructure in ordinary circumstances. However, significantly, this amendment is well timed as it will greatly assist in rapidly progressing the much needed recovery operations following the recent natural disasters in the state.


Urban water regulatory arrangements that apply outside the South-East Queensland region are being reviewed by the Department of Environment and Resource Management to ensure the regulatory framework continues to deliver safe and reliable water and sewerage services while achieving regulatory efficiency and reducing regulatory burden on service providers. The bill makes changes to the Water Act 2000 and Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to defer or remove certain planning and reporting requirements to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden on urban water service providers, which in most areas of Queensland is the relevant local government.

Specifically, these changes will reschedule the due date for preparation of system leakage management plans by service providers to 2013; remove the annual reporting requirements relating to issuing water advices to residential tenants; and remove the requirement for the preparation of outdoor water use conservation plans, other than where the regulator is satisfied a service provider faces a water security risk and has not implemented adequate water efficiency measures. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dempsey, adjourned.

NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY BILL

First Reading

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Resource Management) (12.46 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the ending of mining in the North Stradbroke Island region, and to amend particular other acts to provide for Indigenous joint management of particular land in the region. 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: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill [\[4132\]](#).

Tabled paper: North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill, explanatory notes [\[4133\]](#).

Second Reading

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Resource Management) (12.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Bill 2011 which provides the foundation for implementation of the government's vision for a more economically and environmentally sustainable North Stradbroke Island. This bill provides certainty about the phasing out of mining on North Stradbroke Island, mandates an end to large scale sandmining on the island by 2019 and all mining by 2025, limits the path of the island's largest mine to minimise its environmental impact, establishes processes for dedicating national parks and other protected areas over freehold title under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and establishes a joint management framework between the state and the traditional owners, the Quandamooka people, in the management of those protected areas.

Mining on North Stradbroke Island will end forever in 2025. Through this bill, the island will transform into an ecotourism hot spot, ideally located on Brisbane's doorstep. For generations its economy has been fuelled by sandmining that has created an unsightly footprint on the island's landscape. This bill will reshape the island's future. Instead of trucks and earthmoving equipment, we will see tour vehicles, four-wheel drives and campsites taking in the island's natural assets, not its finite

resources. For the first time, large sections of the island will be open for families, nature lovers, walkers and campers to explore and enjoy. We want to see whale watching, great walks, all manner of water activities, campgrounds and island tours in the island's new economy.

The phase-out will occur through three main stages: the closure of Yarraman Mine as announced by the mining company will occur in 2015; all heavy mineral sandmining will cease with the expiry of the mining leases on Enterprise Mine by the end of 2019; and the expiry of mining leases at the smaller Vance mine, which is a silica mine and involves a much smaller disturbance of land, in 2025 signals the permanent end to mining activities on the island.

To provide certainty to all stakeholders regarding this timetable, several mining leases not being used for active mining will be terminated prior to their current expiry date. However, no mining leases on which mining is actively occurring will be terminated in advance of the company's own intended cessation dates. Enterprise Mine is currently operating in accordance with the provisions of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 on expired leases that are the subject of an application for renewal. This bill renews those leases for a limited period to the end of 2019, providing certainty for the mining company and mineworkers. Where a lease is needed for ancillary purposes such as access roads, it will be renewed for those purposes only and no further extraction will be permitted.

The mine path of Enterprise will be restricted to a limited area to minimise impacts on areas of high environmental significance both on and surrounding Enterprise. The mine path will limit mining activities as much as possible to areas already disturbed by mining. I seek leave to table some maps which indicate this restricted mining path.

Leave granted.

Tabled paper: Map NS11—Map of North Stradbroke Island Region [4134].

Tabled paper: Map NS12—2019 Restricted Mine Path [4135].

Ms JONES: To ensure that this mine path only allows extraction to continue at current rates, the bill provides a three-month window for me as the minister to approve an application by the operator to expand or move the mine path if it is demonstrated that the path does not allow for sufficient resources for mining activity to occur until 2019. An amendment of this type cannot include moving into areas of high ecological significance, such as an endangered regional ecosystem. This amendment provides a balance between ensuring a viable mining operation until the end of 2019 and limiting the environmental impact of that mining. Mining leases associated with the last mine, known as Vance, will be allowed to continue until they expire on 31 October 2025.

The bill also provides that no new mining interests can be applied for or granted in the North Stradbroke Island region. This includes prospecting permits, mining claims, exploration permits, mineral development licences or mining leases. On this basis, the bill enshrines the protection and restoration of environmental values on North Stradbroke Island. This will occur through the staged creation of protected areas on North Stradbroke Island as mining leases expire in accordance with this legislation. By the end of 2011, 50 per cent of the island will be national park; by 2021 this will increase to 75 per cent; and by 2026, 80 per cent of the island will be protected.

The bill gives direct effect to those land tenure outcomes agreed by the state and the Quandamooka people by introducing a new model for tenure and protected area status. The outcome is the same as the model introduced by the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007, which is for national park to co-exist with Aboriginal freehold land in perpetuity and for joint management of that national park by traditional owners and the state. This bill, however, achieves the same outcomes in a slightly different way to cater for the differing circumstances on North Stradbroke Island. It involves declaring as transferrable under the Aboriginal Land Act land that is to become protected area by the end of 2011. This enables freehold title over land that is to be granted to the Quandamooka people that is also to be jointly managed as protected area in perpetuity.

The Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act introduced a new class of protected area known as national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land). Section 19AA of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, which was introduced by the Cape York Act, provides that national park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land) is to be managed as national park and, as far as practicable, in a way that is consistent with any Aboriginal tradition applicable to the area, including any tradition relating to activities in the area. These management principles will be applied in the North Stradbroke Island region, but several other classes of protected area will be applied in addition to national park depending on the starting condition of the land and the need to facilitate appropriate recreational uses.

National park (recovery) and small areas of conservation park are both expected to be dedicated. The bill therefore allows the declaration of any of these classes of protected area in the North Stradbroke Island region as Indigenous joint management areas. National park (scientific) is also eligible in case it should be used in the North Stradbroke Island region at some point in the future.