1. The Mineral Resources (Aurukun Bauxite Resource) Amendment Bill 2016 (the Bill) amends the special provisions of the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* (MRA) which apply to an Aurukun project.
2. The Ngan Aak-Kunch Aboriginal Corporation commenced proceedings in the High Court of Australia to challenge certain Aurukun provisions on the grounds that they are inconsistent with the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975* (Cwlth).
3. The Aurukun provisions were included in the MRA in 2006 to streamline the approval pathway to encourage development of the Aurukun bauxite resource, a resource with substantial physical constraints which had hindered its development in the past. The development was intended to provide economic opportunities for the communities of Western Cape York.
4. The Aurukun provisions were never intended to have a discriminatory effect and it remains the State’s position that the provisions are valid. However, consistent with the government’s policy to ensure the community has the right to object about resource projects, this Bill amends the MRA to include notification and objection rights for the broader community for an Aurukun project.
5. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Mineral Resources (Aurukun Bauxite Resource) Amendment Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly.
6. *Attachments*
* [Mineral Resources (Aurukun Bauxite Resource) Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)