1. The Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill) is an omnibus Bill. The Bill’s primary objectives are to:
   * implement four recommendations of the Gasfields Commission Review to update the statutory negotiation and alternative dispute resolution process for conduct and compensation agreements (CCA) and make good agreements (MGA);
   * make amendments to streamline the process for referral of compensation agreements under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* to the Land Court for determination. Approximately 20 per cent of all matters referred to the Court are for mining claim and mining lease compensation matters; and
   * enhance the water planning framework to ensure climate change consideration is explicit in the water planning process, recognition of the importance of water resources to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders, and provide greater clarity and flexibility in the allocation and planning of water resources; and
   * make amendments to streamline processes and correct errors in the *Water Act 2000* (the Water Act) and resources Acts that will benefit both the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and its clients.
2. In line with the Gasfields Commission Review recommendations, it is proposed the CCA statutory negotiation process in the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014* be amended to clarify the pathway for resolving disputes between the parties negotiating an agreement, including the addition of a distinct arbitration stage as an alternative to an application to the Land Court.
3. Amendments to implement changes to the dispute resolution process for MGAs under chapter 3 of the Water Act will also be made.
4. The Bill amends the Water Act to strengthen climate change considerations in the water planning framework by explicitly requiring the Minister to consider the water-related effects of climate change on:
   * water availability when preparing a draft water plan; and
   * water use practices and the risk to land or water resources arising from the use of water on land when preparing a draft water use plan.
5. The Bill also amends the Water Act to include cultural outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders in a water plan.
6. Cabinet approved that the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*

* [Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)