1. The purpose of the Mining and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 is to amend the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* and the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to reduce red tape and associated costs for the small scale mining sector and deliver a suite of other reforms to enhance the management of Queensland’s resources.
2. Small scale mining operations generate important economic and employment opportunities in regional Queensland. The Bill aims to relieve the financial and regulatory burdens of both tenure approvals and environmental assessment to support this sector of the Queensland resources industry and reinvigorate small scale mining in regional areas.
3. The Bill will introduce a new framework for the allocation of coal exploration rights, involving a controlled release of land and a competitive tendering process. This will mirror the existing framework for petroleum and gas exploration. A cash bidding component will also be introduced for potentially highly prospective coal and petroleum and gas areas.
4. The Bill aims to facilitate the government’s development of the Aurukun bauxite resource reserve.
5. The Bill also seeks to:
* support fossickers by removing unnecessary native title restrictions under the *Fossicking Act 1994*;
* amend the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* to reduce impacts on landowners and the environmental by supporting CSG-LNG proponents co-locate linear infrastructure (e.g. powerlines) on petroleum pipeline licences;
* modernise the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* by transferring the statutory powers and functions of the mining registrar to the chief executive; and
* make other minor amendments to the resources legislation and the *Mines Legislation (Streamlining) Amendment Act 2012*.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Mining and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Mining and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012](Attachments/MiningOLAB12.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/MiningOLAB12E.pdf)