1. The Bill amends the *Biological Control Act 1987*, the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*, the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014*, the *Environmental Protection Act 1994,* the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* and the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993*.
2. The Bill amends the Environmental Protection Act to require auditor certification of contaminated land reports before lodgement with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) for efficiencies in contaminated land assessment.
3. The maximum penalties for Environmental Protection Act offences are increased by the Bill to improve correlation between similar offences within Queensland legislation and other jurisdictions. The Bill also introduces enforceable undertakings as a flexible and cost effective enforcement alternative where this may enable a better overall regulatory outcome.
4. Enhanced penalties and enforceable undertakings support EHP’s role as a ‘firm but fair’ regulator and EHP’s regulatory strategy, which emphasises strong, responsive and effective action against breaches of environmental requirements.
5. The Bill amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act for the improved recovery of materials under the beneficial use approval framework by removing legislative barriers for the use and recovery of former wastes as resources.
6. The Bill also amends the Environmental Offsets Act to ensure there is no duplication associated with environmental offset conditions and correct minor errors and omissions.
7. The Nature Conservation Act is amended to provide Ministerial discretion to require a local government to prepare a statement of management intent for ‘as-of-right’ activities involving protected wilfdlife as an accountability and public education tool. These will assist in the management of urban flying-fox roosts.
8. An amendment to the the Biological Control Act broadens the definition of the entity responsible for the declaration of pest control organisms to reduce the need for ongoing Act amendments as the title of the entity changes.
9. The Bill also amends environment portfolio legislation to remove duplication following the commencement of the *Public Service and Other Legislation (Civil Liability) Amendment Act 2014* on 31 March 2014.
10. A Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on contaminated land assessment was publically released for consultation in April 2014. A full analysis of the 16 submissions received and EHP’s response is contained in the Decision Regulatory Impact Statement.
11. Cabinet approved the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 to be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
12. Cabinet approved the public release of the Decision Regulatory Impact Statement on Technical Services for Contaminated Land.
13. Attachments
* [Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)
* [Decision Regulatory Impact Statement on Technical Services for Contaminated Land](Attachments/RIS.PDF)