

Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024

Explanatory notes for SL 2024 No. 132

made under the

Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024

General Outline

Short title

Proclamation commencing section 169A of the *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*.

Authorising law

Section 2 of the *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objective of the Proclamation is to commence section 169A of the *Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024* (MEROLA Act) on 2 August 2024.

Section 169A of MEROLA Act inserts a new section 851C into the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*, to enable the Office of Groundwater Impact Assessment (OGIA) to provide advice, where requested by government entities, about matters related to subsurface impacts from authorised petroleum and gas activities.

Achievement of policy objectives

The policy objective is achieved by fixing 2 August 2024 for the commencement of section 169A of the MEROLA Act.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Proclamation is consistent with policy objectives of the MEROLA Act.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Proclamation is not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other legislation.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

There are no alternative means to achieve the policy objectives.

Benefits and costs of implementation

Commencement of section 169A of MEROLA Act will enable OGIA to provide advice, where requested by government entities, about matters related to subsurface impacts from authorised petroleum and gas activities.

There are no additional costs associated with the commencement of section 169A.

Completion of a summary Impact Analysis Statement determined that the Proclamation of section 169A of the MEROLA Act does not require any further regulatory impact analysis under *The Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy* as it is a regulatory proposal that is minor and consequential to the MEROLA Act and does not make any regulatory or policy change.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Proclamation is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Action 24 of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan committed to a review of Queensland's coexistence institutions to ensure they are delivering successful coexistence outcomes and catering effectively for both existing and emerging industries. The Department of Resources undertook public consultation on the coexistence institutions review through two consultation papers and briefing sessions which closed in February 2023. Feedback on the coexistence institutional review indicated broad support for OGIA's functions to be expanded to provide advice on a broader range of matters relating to subsurface impacts from authorised activities across the State.