



Speech by


Hon. Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Tuesday, 19 June 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mining Industry, Land Access Framework

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.53 am): Today I want to update the House on the Newman LNP government's ongoing efforts to create transparent and respectful relationships between resource companies and landholders across Queensland. The resources sector will play a critical role in Queensland's much needed economic recovery, but its strong growth must be balanced with the need to protect the interests of landholders, local communities and the environment. The former state Labor government failed to ensure the orderly development of the coal seam gas sector within a modern regulatory framework which is set to grow over the next decade. As a result, many stakeholders have a low level of confidence in existing government processes to protect their interests and there is much work to be done across the resources sector to achieve its social licence to operate. The LNP government recognises the need to act on this issue given the concerns surrounding rapid resources development, particularly in areas such as the Darling Downs and in Central Queensland. Already the Newman LNP government has fulfilled 100-day commitments to establish the GasFields Commission to oversee the relationship between landowners and CSG companies and to boost transparency in the industry by making agreements between gas companies and landholders publicly available. The Newman government is also moving forward with the development of statutory regional plans for the Darling Downs and in Central Queensland.

Today I am pleased to take another important step in building a transparent and respectful relationship between all resource sector participants and landholders by tabling the recommendations of the independent review into land access arrangements, and I table that report.

Tabled paper: Land Access Framework—12-month review, Report of the Land Access Review Panel, February 2012 [\[341\]](#).

The review panel, chaired by Dr David Watson, made 12 recommendations to strengthen and improve the land access framework introduced in late 2010. The panel recommended the implementation of a new dispute resolution process, the development of a standard conduct and compensation agreement and a review of the scope of compensatable effects of resource developments to clearly articulate what a landholder should be compensated for. The full land access review panel report will be available on the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website from today and stakeholders are encouraged to provide direct comment to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines within 30 days. As Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, I am committed to workable land access laws that protect the rights of both landholders and resource companies and I look forward to making further announcements to the House in this critical area after the public consultation period has closed.