1. The purpose of the *Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* (the Bill) is to:
* enhance safety and health measures in Queensland’s mining, explosives and gas industries;
* streamline and simplify processes to achieve savings for business and Government; and
* improve electricity retailer credit support arrangements and customer service obligations.
1. Amendments proposed to the *Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999* will require small mines to develop and maintain a safety and health management system. This is aimed at reducing fatalities at small mines and quarries and is part of a broader initiative to improve safety and health in small mines.
2. The Bill proposes amendments to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* to streamline the mining lease approval process by removing the current requirement for the Land Court to hear mining lease applications where there are no objections. Where no objections to a mining lease application have been lodged, it is proposed that the merits of the application would be assessed and taken into account by the Minister responsible for the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.
3. Other amendments that will streamline and simplify regulatory processes include amendments to reduce the regulatory burden on participating businesses in the Smart Energy Savings Program; and to simplify the approvals process for pipelines that traverse both the mainland and Queensland’s internal waters.
4. Amendments to the *Electricity Act 1994* will place a clear obligation on electricity retail entities to provide credit support required by distribution entities to mitigate risk of non-payment for electricity distribution services, but only if the credit support required complies with guidelines prepared by the Queensland Competition Authority, or another form agreed to between a retailer and distribution entity. The changes to this Act will also ensure large electricity market customers in disconnected premises can secure access to electricity by placing an obligation on the retailer responsible for their premises to offer supply to these customers on fair and reasonable terms.
5. In addition to the above amendments, the Bill also contains amendments to the *Clean Energy Act 2008, Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Explosives Act 1999, Geothermal Exploration Act 2004, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2004, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982* and *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997.*
6. Cabinet approved the *Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2010* be introduced into Parliament.
7. *Attachments*
	* [Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2010](Attachments/Mines%20and%20Energy%20Legislation%20Amendment%20Bill%202010.pdf)
	* [Mines and Energy Legislation Amendment Bill 2010 Explanatory notes](Attachments/Mines%20and%20Energy%20Amendment%20Bill%20Explanatory%20Notes.pdf)