1. Exploration for geothermal energy has been under way in Queensland since 2005 under the *Geothermal Exploration Act 2004*.
2. The purpose of the *Geothermal Energy Bill 2010* (the Bill) is to provide a new framework for developing the exploration and production of geothermal energy and aims to encourage the growth of this clean energy industry in Queensland.
3. The Bill also contains amendments to the *Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Petroleum Act 1923,* and *Greenhouse Gas Act 2009, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, Electricity Act 1994* andrepeals the *Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act 1987.*
4. The Bill provides:
* regulation of large scale production of geothermal energy as determined by a threshold mechanism.
* stability and certainty for the renewable energy industry by allowing a maximum term of 30 years for a geothermal production lease with no limits on the number of renewals that can be made.
* for the turnaround of land available for exploration by requiring a geothermal exploration permit holder to relinquish part of the area of its permit after set periods of time.
* that a geothermal exploration permit can be granted for a maximum term of five years (with renewal options) and must include a work program which includes detailed information about the activities to be carried out under the permit.
* mechanisms to allow for the exploration for and/or production of different resources on the same area of land. This is designed to allow for the most efficient use of the State’s resources.
1. The Bill also includes the Land Access Policy Framework, which recognises and clarifies the rights of resource tenure holders and landholders in relation to accessing private land for resource related activities; and also provides for compensation for land owners and occupiers whose land may be affected by any geothermal activities conducted under a geothermal production lease or exploration permit.
2. The Land Access documentation that supports the Bill includes: a single statutory Land Access Code of Conduct; and Standard Conduct and Compensation Agreement for petroleum and gas, geothermal, greenhouse gas storage and mineral exploration activities.
3. Cabinet approved the *Geothermal Energy Bill 2010* be introduced into Parliament.
4. *Attachments:*
* [*Geothermal Energy Bill 2010*](Attachments/Geothermal%20Energy%20Bill%202010.pdf)
* [Explanatory notes](Attachments/Geothermal%20Energy%20Bill%202010%20Explanatory%20Notes.pdf)