1. In May 2023, the Queensland Government released its response to a report from retired Judge Richard Jones and Barrister Susan Hedge’s 2022, Independent Review of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (Qld) Report: Independent review into the adequacy of existing powers and penalties.
2. The Government noted support for all 18 recommendations except for Recommendation 12 which was supported in-principle subject to further consultation.
3. The Government released a consultation paper in September 2023, Improving the powers and penalties provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, detailing proposed legislative amendments for delivering on the Government’s commitment to implement the Report’s recommendations.
4. The Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 makes amendments to ensure the powers and penalties in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* are adequate and contemporary.
5. The proposed amendments will:
	* clarify and refine environmental policy principles;
	* rationalise statutory notices to ensure compliance with authorities, duties, and obligations and respond to environmental harm events;
	* create a duty to restore and associating it and existing duties/obligations to offences; and
	* improve evidentiary provisions relating to court proceedings.
6. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 into the Legislative Assembly.
7. Cabinet approved the release of the Government consultation paper, Improving the powers and penalties provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994.*
8. *Attachments*
	* [Environmental Protection (Powers and Penalties) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2024/Feb/EPOLAB/Attachments/Bill.PDF)
	* [Explanatory Notes](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2024/Feb/EPOLAB/Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
	* [Human Rights Statement of Compatibility](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2024/Feb/EPOLAB/Attachments/SoC.PDF)
	* [Consultation Report](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2024/Feb/EPOLAB/Attachments/Report.PDF)