

FACT SHEET

Natural Resource Management Amendment Bill 2017

The purpose of the *Natural Resource Management Amendment Bill 2017* is to amend the *Natural Resource Management Act 2002*. The proposed amendment will improve and strengthen Tasmania's natural resource management arrangements and ensure that our natural resources are managed effectively and efficiently.

The most significant amendment in this Bill is to remove the roles and functions of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council from the Act, and instead create the capacity for the Minister to form a special purpose committee, comprising issue-specific experts, on an as-needs basis.

A minor amendment to the Act will remove the statutory requirement for accreditation criteria for regional NRM strategies. The provisions for accreditation criteria are outdated and refer to a national Ministerial Council that no longer exists. Removing the requirement for accreditation criteria does not in any way alter the Government's capacity to accredit draft regional strategies in accordance with the Act.

The Bill extends the statutory timeframe for reviewing the Act from every seven to ten years. The Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies have demonstrated a clear ability to perform their roles and functions over the past 13 years, and as such, the legislation that governs their operations need only be reviewed every ten years.

The Bill omits numerous references to 'the Council' and 'regional committees', and replaces the latter with the term 'relevant committees'.

The amendments contained in this Bill serve to streamline the natural resource management process, and are in line with the Government's policy to reduce administrative costs and red tape, and decrease the number of boards and councils in the State.