

25 June 2026

Committee Secretary
Primary Industries and Resources Committee
Parliament House
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To the Primary Industries and Resources Committee

RE: State Development and Public Works Organisation (Critical Minerals) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the State Development and Public Works Organisation (Critical Minerals) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026 (the Bill). Coexistence Queensland acknowledges the significant economic opportunities major projects and infrastructure brings to Queensland, but such investments and accelerated approvals must not come at the expense of impacts to landholders, community confidence, and transparent decision-making.

Coexistence Queensland is a statutory body established to manage and improve the sustainable coexistence of landholders, regional communities, and the resources and energy industries. We play a key role as a trusted advisor to government, industry and community stakeholders about coexistence issues and opportunities, and it is in this context we are providing feedback on the Bill.

As an entity committed to preparing independent information we welcome the opportunity to partner with the Queensland Government to enhance coexistence outcomes between major projects and their host landholders and communities. Stakeholders have recently raised with us that there is a need to better explain how the different statutory instruments and obligations function together to achieve coexistence outcomes.

Community Engagement and Impacts

Through our work with Queensland communities for more than a decade, Coexistence Queensland has seen immense value in ensuring communities are consulted early and meaningfully as part of project development. This gives landholders and communities the opportunity to understand, provide input on, and improve decisions relating to State strategic projects, including critical minerals developments and associated infrastructure that directly affect them.

Some stakeholders have indicated that their primary concern is not the presence of projects themselves, but rather the lack of timely communication and information about project development. In relation to State strategic projects, if these are to be prioritised and supported through specialised coordination and facilitation, it is important that strong and transparent relationships with affected landholders are established early.

Landholders and communities have highlighted to Coexistence Queensland the importance of considering cumulative impacts as part of the approval framework. While individual projects may be manageable, the combined effect of multiple projects, infrastructure corridors, or overlapping tenures can create significant impacts over time.

There is also a need for clearer communication about when landholder rights and protections apply across the lifecycle of a State strategic project, particularly where coordination occurs earlier than in traditional development pathways, as it may otherwise appear unclear or inconsistent. In addition, confidence in ongoing compliance and enforcement remains critical, with expectations that monitoring and regulatory oversight continue throughout all project phases, not just at approval. Consistent with Coexistence Queensland's engagement, there is also a strong preference for clear, plain-English information that explains how processes work in practice, ensuring new frameworks are accessible and usable for landholders.

Land Access & Landholder Protections

Given the expanded framework for land access and acquisition present in this Bill, acknowledging a landholder may encounter project-related activity earlier in the project lifecycle, it is important to continue supporting procedural fairness, well-considered compensation arrangements and appropriate safeguards. This will help in fostering and maintaining public confidence.

It is encouraged that the amendments made by the Bill should not limit, reduce or end any existing landholder rights. The clear communication of this intent would provide certainty to both involved landholders and project proponents.

Building on the points above, recent engagement has highlighted several additional practical concerns in relation to large-scale and coordinated project delivery frameworks. There is uncertainty about how new project pathways may interact with existing land use or access processes under the resources legislation, including entry notices, Conduct and Compensation Agreements (CCAs), and established dispute resolution pathways. Landholders have expressed concern that accelerated or coordinated processes could override or reduce the clarity of these mechanisms. There are also concerns about compressed timeframes for engagement and decision-making, with the potential for shortened consultation periods limiting the ability of landholders to fully understand proposals, seek independent advice, and meaningfully participate in decisions that affect their property and operations.

Transparency, Accountability and Oversight

While the Bill may increase the Minister's and Coordinator-General's ability to facilitate and modify processes for State strategic projects, it does not appear to create a corresponding increase in independent oversight throughout a project's lifecycle. Transparency should extend beyond the initial project declaration and continue throughout construction and operational phases to support ongoing social licence for the project. Maintaining visibility of project steps and performance throughout the project's lifecycle would further strengthen public confidence and ensure expanded powers introduced by the Bill are accompanied by appropriate accountability measures.

Where broad discretionary powers are conferred on Ministers or the Coordinator-General, decisions should be accompanied by publicly available reasons and subject to appropriate oversight.

Recommendations & Conclusion

Coexistence Queensland supports the objectives of facilitating efficient and coordinated delivery of major and critical minerals projects in Queensland. However, it is important that this occurs with clear safeguards and transparent processes that protect and enable landholders, communities and other stakeholders impacted by these projects to effectively have a say. The Bill should ensure that existing landholder rights and protections are clearly maintained, including land access processes, fair compensation arrangements, and access to established dispute resolution pathways. Early, meaningful engagement should remain a priority, with sufficient timeframes to allow landholders to understand proposals, seek independent advice, and participate effectively in decisions that affect their property and operations.

Transparency and accountability should also be maintained across the full lifecycle of projects, not only at the point of declaration. This includes ensuring that decisions made under expanded powers are accompanied by clear reasoning and that appropriate oversight and compliance mechanisms remain in place during planning, construction and operational phases. Ensuring the framework is clear and consistent, and information is accessible will help build community confidence, reduce conflict, and support the successful and timely delivery of major projects across Queensland.

With over a decade of experience in supporting conversations with regional and rural communities across Queensland, Coexistence Queensland stands ready to support the Queensland Government to engage with communities on resource and energy projects, including critical minerals projects.

Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss any matters in this submission further please do not hesitate to contact me on 0423 781 995, or alternatively on Warwick.Squire@cqlld.org.au.

Yours sincerely



Warwick Squire
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Coexistence Queensland