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Introduction

The NSW Government supports the State's resources industry and the benefits it delivers to the NSW community. The Department of Regional NSW's division of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience (MEG) is progressing a range of reforms which support the responsible development of the state's mineral resources and will position NSW to become Australia's premier destination for exploration and mining investment.

Following an internal review of the *Mining Act 1992* (the Mining Act) and the *Petroleum (Onshore) Act 1991* (the Petroleum Act), the Government has determined that the most effective way to address priority issues is through operational and policy changes.

To support these reforms, legislative amendments have been developed to enable faster and more efficient decision-making, to streamline and modernise processes, improve clarity and enhance compliance. They also support the NSW Government commitment to establish the new Royalties for Rejuvenation fund.

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the proposed changes to the Mining and Petroleum Acts and give stakeholders a preview of the amendments before the exposure draft of the Bill is released for feedback. We will seek formal submissions on the legislative reforms following the release of the draft Bill.

MEG is also pursuing other reforms that will help deliver our vision. These are not covered in this document.

1. Establishing Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[124])

In April 2021, the NSW Government announced the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund to set aside $25 million per year of coal mining royalties to assist coal mining communities to diversify their economies. It delivers on a key commitment in the Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining in NSW to support the growth of new jobs and industries in mining communities.

The proposed changes to the Mining Act will give the Fund a legislative basis. The legislation will outline the purpose of the Fund, arrangements for payments into and out of the Fund and reporting requirements. The changes will also enable the making of regulations necessary to support the new provisions.

The proposed legislative amendments will enable the Minister to establish expert panels to provide advice and make recommendations to the Minister consistent with the purpose of the Fund. This will ensure that coal mining communities guide investments supported by the Fund. Local communities are best placed to advise on what the future should look like. Ahead of the Bill being introduced into Parliament, interim expert panels may be appointed for regions where short-term priorities necessitate timely advice.

2. Enabling faster, more effective decision-making

The package of proposed amendments includes changes to make authorisation application processes, decision-making and administration more efficient. The Department is also developing the fit-for-purpose online Titles Management System to support the management of exploration and mining authorities with increased transparency and accountability.

2.1. Rejecting applications without development consent

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[155], Schedule 2[82])

Under the Mining and Petroleum Acts, the Minister must not grant a mining or production lease unless a development consent is in place for the activities. Proponents often lodge a lease application before starting a development assessment process and before lodging a development application. If a proponent is unsuccessful in obtaining development consent, they typically do not withdraw the related lease application until exhausting all options to challenge the decision.

There are limited levers available to deal with cases where a lease applicant fails to initiate a development assessment process within a reasonable period or does not voluntarily withdraw an application after failing to obtain development consent (and exhausting all reasonable options). Holding the lease applications in abeyance for an extended period creates uncertainty for the community and industry.

The planned amendments allow the decision-maker to reject applications in these circumstances within periods prescribed in the regulation. The changes would apply to pending and future applications and allow the Department to manage both with greater efficiency and certainty.

2.2. Rejecting administratively incomplete applications

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[155], Schedule 2[82]))

There are currently grounds in the Mining and Petroleum Acts to allow the decision-maker to refuse an application where the applicant has failed to lodge any information required to accompany the application within 10 business days after the application is lodged. To allow administratively incomplete applications to be dealt with more quickly and easily, the amendments allow the decision-maker to reject an administratively incomplete application after a period specified in regulation without needing to assess and determine the application in full. The regulation will expressly prescribe what constitutes an administratively complete application to give clarity to applicants.

2.3. Refusing an application for failing to meet the applicable minimum standards

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[154], Schedule 2[80])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts allow the decision-maker to refuse an application where an applicant fails to meet the applicable minimum standards for work programs and the technical and financial capability to carry out the proposed work program. To remove any doubt, amendments will clarify that a decision-maker can refuse an application for failure to meet any one or more of these grounds, and not just for the failure to meet all three grounds

2.4. Allowing flexibility for multiple applications and grants of an authority

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[16] [18] [23-24] [31] [33], Schedule 2[6-7] [17] [19] [22] [24])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts currently have inconsistent provisions regarding the ability to grant more than one authority from a single application, and a single authority from multiple applications. The current provisions limit the flexibility available to the decision-maker to make practical changes, such as aligning reporting times. The amendments will align the requirements across the different provisions to clarify:

- that a single authority can only be granted in respect of two or more applications lodged by the same applicant, and
- that the area over which one or more authorities may be granted cannot exceed the combined area of the applications that were made in respect of the authorities.

2.5. Death, incapacity or deregistration

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[49] [55] [67] [69] [151] [177], Schedule 2 [15-16] [50] [84])

Under the Mining and Petroleum Acts, an application made by a person who dies or becomes mentally incapacitated before the application is determined survives for the benefit of the applicant's estate. The Acts also provides that an interest in an authorisation can devolve to another person via succession law. However, the current provisions lack detail, making them difficult and time-consuming to apply. The amendments will allow the regulation to prescribe a clearer framework for how an application or authorisation should be dealt with in the event of death or mental incapacity. This will include notification, documentary evidence and communication requirements, timeframes and assessment criteria as well as key term definitions. It will also clarify the government's ability to call on security deposits.

The Acts also lack detail on how to deal with deregistered companies or companies under external administration, making the matters unnecessarily complex and time-consuming to address. The amendments will allow the regulation to prescribe a framework for how an application or authorisation should be dealt with in the event of potential deregistration. This will include express cancellation powers after affording procedural fairness and clarifying the ability to call on security deposits.

Where the deceased or deregistered applicant or authorisation holder is one of several parties, the amendments will provide that the parties can elect to be joint tenants (which would allow the deceased's interest to transfer to the other parties) or tenants in common.

2.6. Period to renew authorities prior to expiry

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[38] [65], Schedule 2[8])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts allow an authorisation holder to apply for a renewal within a set window of time before the authority expires. The amendments will allow the regulations to prescribe the time windows for renewal applications, enable an increase in time and provide increased flexibility for applicants who are ready to apply before expiry.

2.7. Determining relinquishment on renewal of exploration licences

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[40], Schedule 2[11])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts provide that an exploration licence renewal generally cannot exceed a specified percentage of the area for which the licence was in force. This percentage-based reduction is rigid and may not be appropriate for some type of minerals. The amendments will improve the renewals process by establishing a general expectation that all explorers should relinquish areas of their licence that are not genuinely required to support the work program proposed for the next term. The decision-maker would have the discretion to require the holder to relinquish specified areas, if they are not satisfied that the area being sought is justified, after considering the evidence, past performance and any special circumstances. This would deter applicants from taking out licences without a genuine intention to explore and encourage efficient exploration.

2.8. Linking a group of authorities

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[112-119] Schedule 2[37-42])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts currently provide various means to align the due dates for annual obligations across a group of authorities or titles held by the same person or project. However, with the exception of coal, the Acts do not provide a means of formally applying for and recognising authorities as an administrative grouping (and for decoupling them if required). The amendments establish provisions, including a regulation making power, to allow this to occur in future, drawing on similar arrangements in other jurisdictions.

2.9. Voluntary suspensions of mining operations

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[36-37] [157-158]

Under the Mining Act, a mining lease holder may voluntarily suspend mining operations in the mining area (sometimes referred to as entering ‘care and maintenance’) only with the written consent of the decision-maker. However, the current provisions lack critical details to apply a risk-based approach and to regulate voluntary suspensions effectively. The amendments will introduce a regulation making power to:

- clarify the scope of a suspension (e.g. application to activities for rehabilitation)
- provide for certain short-term suspensions to occur by providing a notification, rather than a request for consent
- enable the imposition of time limits and conditions on written consents
- allow the revocation of a written consent after providing reasonable notice
- direct that, for certain mining operations already suspended under a notification, application be made for written consent within a reasonable period, or
- require mining operations that are currently suspended to transition into the new framework within a reasonable period.

The changes will strengthen the existing framework and provide greater clarity to industry about requirements. The Department is also developing a supporting policy to support the framework and set clear expectations about when suspensions are appropriate and consistent with the Mining Act.

2.10. Exercising rights conferred by an authority on land within exempted areas

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[19] [26] [177])

Before an authority holder can exercise any rights conferred by the authority on land within an exempted area, they must obtain the Minister's written consent, which may be given unconditionally or subject to conditions. For exploration in exempted areas, the authority holder also needs to enter a land access arrangement with the relevant landholder, which would include controls on the conduct of activities. For mining and production, the development application process would have evaluated the merits and impacts of the project and imposed appropriate mitigation controls. The miner or producer also needs to enter a compensation agreement with the landholder before they can operate. It is common practice to grant the consent without any conditions after consulting with the relevant government entity to confirm that these controls are in place. The amendments will remove the requirement to obtain written consent from the Minister where specific criteria have been satisfied, such as the above agreements being in place. This will significantly reduce regulatory burden without affecting the Government's ability to effectively control exploration and mining activities.

2.11. Expired petroleum titles

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 2[84])

As occurs under the Mining Act, the amendments will amend the Petroleum Act to provide that an expired petroleum title continues to have effect only over the land that is the subject of a renewal application, allowing a more harmonised approach.

2.12. Renewing a jointly held petroleum title

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 2[10])

The Mining Act allows the decision-maker to renew a jointly held authority for only some of the holders if satisfied that the holder that is not applying does not want the authority renewed in their name. This allows the Department to keep working on an application even if one of the joint authorities no longer wants to proceed.

The Petroleum Act does not provide this flexibility. The amendments will align the Petroleum Act with the Mining Act.

3. Administration of unallocated coal resources

3.1. Exploration licences under the Operational Allocation pathway for coal

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[10-12])

The amendments will impose a new requirement to obtain Ministerial consent to apply for a coal exploration licence under the Operational Allocation pathway for coal.

In cases where the area forms part of a larger, unallocated resource, the consent requirement would enable the Minister to confirm up front whether there is other valid market interest in the area and, as such, whether it is more appropriate to consider a larger, unallocated resource under the new Competitive Allocation pathway or potentially the Strategic Release Framework for Coal and Petroleum Exploration, without first having to complete a full application assessment and determination process which can take many months to finalise.

In all cases, the consent requirement would also give the Minister the discretion to consider if there are any significant suitability constraints that cannot be addressed by granting the licence over only part of the land over which the licence was sought and that may warrant refusal of consent.

The proposed changes include a regulation-making power to provide for potential exceptions to the requirement (for instance, an exemption may be considered for 'infill' applications where the area applied for is below the stratum of an existing mining lease and does not exceed the boundary of that title) and amendments to allow the Minister to take into account published guidance on the exercise of the discretion.

The changes are consistent with Strategic Statement on Coal Exploration and Mining NSW commitments to streamline the process for exploring new areas and areas adjacent to current mining operations, support responsible coal production in suitable areas and improve certainty about where coal mining should not occur.

3.2. Participation charges for competitive selection and operational allocation

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[123] [177])

The amendments provide a legislative basis for the mandatory participation charges that will apply to the Operational Allocation pathway's market interest test process and Competitive Allocation pathway's public tender stage.

Interested parties would need to pay a charge prescribed by the regulations to participate. These reforms were originally announced as part of the establishment of the Competitive Allocation pathway in December 2020.

If a party pays the charge to participate in a market interest test process for an area under the Operational Allocation pathway and the area is subsequently referred to the Competitive Allocation pathway for release, that party would not need to pay a further charge to participate in the public tender, ensuring equal treatment of applicants.

The purpose of the charges is cost recovery and to ensure that only bona fide expressions of interest for a coal exploration licence are lodged.

3.3. Establishing a fund for the proceeds from the allocation of coal authorities

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[124])

Income from the release of coal areas through the operational allocation, competitive allocation or strategic release frameworks does not currently have an associated statutory fund. A portion of the money is held in a non-statutory fund for expenditure on coal related activities (known as the Coal Identification Fund). To provide improved governance and transparency for this income, the planned amendment is to put the existing fund in the Mining Act.

Under the Mining Act, authority holders must lodge security deposits with the Department to cover the costs of their rehabilitation obligations. Most provide a security deposit in the form of a bank guarantee, but some provide it as a cash deposit. The Mining Act allows the Department to invest this money in interest-bearing deposits in a bank. Any interest accruing on the money is paid into the Derelict Mine Sites Fund to support the remediation of certain sites used for, or affected by, mining or prospecting operations that have been abandoned by past operators.

The current investment restrictions on cash-based security deposits and the Derelict Mines Site Fund are narrow and produce a very limited return due to low interest rates.

The planned amendments will create a special deposits account to hold cash security deposits and allow funds in these accounts and any other funds held under the Mining Act to be invested consistent with the *Government Sector Finance Act 2018*. This flexibility is consistent with the rules that apply to other legislated funds under the Mining Act.

4. Improving clarity for industry and community

4.1. Clarifying the process for assessing agricultural land objections

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[62-63] [76] [168-172])

Under the Mining Act, a landholder of any land may object to the granting of a mining lease on the ground that the land is ‘agricultural land’. This will remain in place and operate alongside existing requirements to evaluate and mitigate impacts on agricultural land as part of a development application for a mine. However, the existing provisions lack procedural detail,

involve ambiguous and undefined terms and rely heavily on expert advice. This can cause significant delays on mining lease application assessment timeframes.

The amendments will introduce a clearer process for determining the objections, emphasising the requirement for landholders to demonstrate land is agricultural land. They will also broaden the decision-maker's discretion to consider the extent to which mining can take place, exist under surface or in proximity to agricultural land, without unreasonable damage to or interference with the land's productive capacity. The changes will reduce ambiguity, define terminology and strengthen procedural fairness for the parties during the evaluation.

Further amendments will provide that a mineral claim can be granted and an opal prospecting area can be constituted with the consent of the landholder after land has been determined to be agricultural land as a consequence of an objection. The changes will ensure that objections in relation to mineral claims and opal prospecting areas may be withdrawn, written consent of the landholder can be given after an objection is made and to clarify that once a written consent is received, no determination is required and provide clarity in relation to changes of ownership in land.

4.2. Streamlining security deposit requirements

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1 [96] [99-110], Schedule 2[52] [55-63])

Currently the Mining and Petroleum Acts allow an explorer with multiple authorities to lodge a single, combined security deposit for those authorities, rather than a separate security deposit for each authority. Group securities have administrative and cost advantages for industry, but the inflexibility regarding the minimum amount reduces uptake. The amendments will streamline and clarify the security deposit requirements and move prescriptive requirements into the regulation. This will produce a more flexible framework for calculating the group security.

Further amendments will provide that a transferee will be required to lodge a security deposit prior to approval of the transfer. This will reduce ambiguity about the Government's ability to continue to hold the security deposit when the rehabilitation obligations have passed from one party to another.

There is also ambiguity in the Mining Act about how money held under an unused security deposit is to be paid into the Derelict Mines Fund and how those funds might be subsequently recovered. The amendments will add a requirement that a security deposit must have lapsed before the money can be paid and clarifying the circumstances in which funds may be recovered.

4.3. Removing uncertainty in relation to the proximity of ancillary mining activity

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[2] [174] [177])

Designated ancillary mining activities may only be carried out in accordance with an authorisation under the Mining Act if they are within the 'immediate vicinity' of, and directly facilitate, a mining lease. While the Department has generally operated on the position that activity within 20 kilometres of the mining lease area meets the 'immediate vicinity' test, the legislation lacks a clear definition. The amendments will remove the word 'immediate' and include a new regulation making power to allow the regulations to specify circumstances in which an ancillary mining activity is taken to be in the vicinity of a mining lease or mineral claim, even if the ancillary mining activity is being carried out at a significant distance from the mining lease or mineral claim.

4.4. Clarifying designated ancillary mining activities

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[3-4] [32] 174])

The Mining Act provisions that outline the decision-maker's powers in relation to mining lease and ancillary mining activities applications are ambiguous. The amendments will clarify that a mining lease cannot be granted where it is for an ancillary mining activity that relates only to mining under a mining (mineral owner) lease. The amendments will also address inconsistent drafting between the Mining Act and the regulation in relation to designated ancillary mining activities.

4.5. Confidentiality of competitive selection applications

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[53], Schedule 2[44])

The planned amendments will clarify that competitive selection applications and other information received as part of a competitive tender do not need to be made publicly available until after the competitive process is complete.

5. Improving compliance tools

5.1. Fit and proper person

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[150] [177], Schedule 2[79] [84])

The fit and proper provisions may only be used in relation to certain specified decisions relating to mining rights. The amendments will also broaden the scope of this section to:

- ensure a decision-maker may make a stand-alone determination at any time that a person is not fit and proper
- create a power for the decision-maker to disqualify any person who has been declared not fit and proper from holding, applying for or being associated with an application for an authorisation or permit

- ensure that the determination or sanction may be appealed to the Land and Environment Court
- allow the regulations to specify the ground for making fit and proper determinations and the implications of a fit and proper determination in relation to jointly held applications or authorisations.
- The proposed amendment will address inconsistent references to body corporate relating to fit and proper person considerations. This will clarify that in determining whether a person is a fit and proper person, consideration must be given to whether the person or (in the case of a body corporate) the director of the body corporate or of a related body corporate has compliance or criminal conduct issues.

5.2. Rehabilitation of land disturbed by unlawful activities

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[84] Schedule 2[31])

Currently the Secretary or an inspector can only issue a direction to rehabilitate or prevent damage to the environment to a 'responsible person' in relation to an authorisation. This does not cover persons who are prospecting or mining without an authority, that is, persons who have caused damage or harm while illegally prospecting or mining. The proposed amendment will make it clear that the Secretary or an inspector can issue directions to rehabilitate land that has been disturbed by illegal prospecting or mining or other unlawful activities, including disturbance that has occurred outside the authorisation area. This will ensure that directions to rehabilitate can be made to a person who does not hold an authorisation.

5.3. Offence for prospecting without a valid land access arrangement

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule1[51], Schedule 2[25])

Under the Mining and Petroleum Acts, an authority holder must have a valid land access agreement in place to prospect, however there are limited compliance tools that the Department can use to respond to this situation. This amendment will introduce an offence for prospecting without a valid land access agreement, including penalties that align with the penalties for mining or prospecting without authorisation.

5.4. Permit any person to enter land to carry out activities required by direction

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[84] [94-95], Schedule 2[51])

Under the Mining and Petroleum Acts, the Minister may grant a permit to any person to enter any land to carry out any rehabilitation work required by a direction. This provision does not include the full scope of activities that a direction can require, which limits the value of permits and the effectiveness of directions. The planned amendments will clarify that the Minister may grant a permit to enter land to carry out any activities required by a direction.

5.5. Aligning the limitation periods for offences

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[132-134], Schedule 2[68-70])

The amendments will increase the time to commence proceedings for certain offences under the Mining and Petroleum Acts t to enable the Department enough time to investigate and commence proceedings when required. The amendment will increase the time limitation for executive liability to 3 years and providing false and misleading information to 2 years. These time frames are consistent with those in the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.*

6. Streamlining and modernising processes

The planned amendments include changes to recognise more modern ways of operating, such as electronic processes, to streamline day-to-day operations. Moving certain requirements to the regulation will allow more flexibility to reflect regulatory best practice and responses.

6.1. Modernising public notice requirements

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[9] [22] [81] [111] [161] [167], Schedule 2[20] [23] [83])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts require applicants to notify the public by advertising in a national and local newspaper. Notices inviting tenders must also be published in newspapers. With many local newspapers having closed in recent years and lower print media readership, this requirement no longer reflects modern practice in informing the public. The amendments will remove these requirements and provide for public notice requirements in the regulations, which may include direct notification of landholders, use of government websites, use of local newspapers and other means of local awareness-raising.

6.2. Moving lodgement requirements to the regulation

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[139] [145], Schedule 2[75-77])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts currently include a lot of the prescriptive requirements for providing applications, notices, objections, requests, withdrawals or other documents, which makes it hard to respond to changing circumstances and make improvements. There are also some redundant or duplicative requirements which create confusion. The amendments will allow the Secretary or regulations to set the manner and form of lodgement for these requirements, including allowing for electronic lodgement. The regulations will also prescribe any required information.

6.3. Updating the definition of prospecting

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[177] [183], Schedule 2[2] [84])

The inconsistent definitions of prospecting in the Mining and Petroleum Acts create uncertainty about the scope of works permitted under exploration licences. The amendments will align the definitions by adding the concept of testing 'the potential to recover minerals from the land' to the Mining Act's definition of 'to prospect'.

In addition, the definition of prospecting does not recognise that prospecting activities include rehabilitation of the land. While prospecting authorities contain conditions requiring rehabilitation, to remove confusion the definition of prospecting will be amended to clarify that 'to prospect' includes rehabilitating the land disturbed by prospecting activities.

6.4. Providing more general powers to issue waivers

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[148-149] Schedule 2[73-74])

The Mining and Petroleum Acts contain relatively narrow powers to waive or exempt applicants or authority holders from requirements such as minor procedural matters, fees and certain royalty payments. This limits the Department's ability to respond to hardship events, test alternative regulatory approaches and to incentivise and reward certain good behaviours. To provide increased flexibility, the amendment will provide a regulation power to enable the regulation to specify waivers and conditions.

6.5. Streamlining public registers and enabling electronic service and lodgement

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[50] [52] [54] [56-57] [71-72] [78], Schedule 2[26] [44])

Under the Mining and Petroleum Acts, there are several public registers with various formats and requirements. The amendments will align and streamline these requirements and allow registers to be maintained electronically. The changes will not prevent members of the public from contacting the Department directly to obtain access. The amendments will also enable electronic service and lodgement of all documents, applications and notices under the Mining Act.

6.6. Removing obligations to lodge statutory declarations

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1 [164])

This amendment will remove requirements to provide a statutory declaration and insert the requirement to provide a statement by the applicant instead. This is consistent with standard government practices which rely on the use of false and misleading information offences to ensure the accuracy of documents.

6.7. Allowing Secretary held titles

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[127] [130], Schedule 2[64-65])

The Mining Act allows the Secretary to apply on behalf of the Crown for an exploration licence for a controlled release mineral, for example coal, to obtain information to inform future decisions about the release and competitive allocation of areas. This provision creates ambiguity as to whether the Secretary could also apply for other authorisations or authorities under the Mining or Petroleum Acts on behalf of the Crown, for example, to support exploration for Crown-owned critical minerals. The amendments will clarify that the Secretary can apply for and hold any type of authorisation under the Acts on behalf of the Crown.

6.8. Removing the ability to apply for a mining lease for mercury

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 1[5-6])

To implement NSW's obligations under the soon to be ratified Minamata Convention on mercury, the amendments will remove the ability to obtain an authority in respect of mercury. The Bill will also include amendments to ensure an offence is not committed where mercury is recovered as a by-product of mining for another mineral.

6.9. Calculating petroleum royalties and improving the associated definitions.

(Refer draft exposure Bill – Schedule 2[34-35] [84])

The Petroleum Act provides limited detail on how petroleum royalty payments should be calculated and does not define the key concept of "well-head", creating ambiguity for industry and government.

The amendments will align the Petroleum Act's royalty calculation approach with the approach under the Mining Act. This will allow the Minister to determine the manner for calculating petroleum royalties, rather than the amount. The amendments also adopt a clearer, technical definition of well-head, based on similar definitions used in other jurisdictions.

6.10. Making general housekeeping amendments

Amendments of a housekeeping nature will also be made including fixing minor errors in drafting and terminology, ensuring consistency in terminology and improving language and grammar.