

To consolidate and reset the existing structures under COAG, with a view to rationalising the federal relations architecture and its work programs, on 26 June 2020 National Cabinet agreed to a review of the federal architecture. This was referred to as the Conran review.

Consultation occurred with both ministers and officials nationally and at the state and territory government level, and included submissions from academics to develop the final report and its recommendations.

National Cabinet agreed to the final report of the Conran review and its recommendations at its 23 October 2020 meeting. The final report outlined a new approach for ministerial forums and made a number of recommendations to consolidate and streamline forums.

A key recommendation of the Conran review recommendation 30 stated:

The Commonwealth should introduce legislation into the Parliament to amend outdated references to COAG Councils and ministerial forums. A parallel process may take place in each of the states and territories with relevant departments to contribute to the process as required.

This bill provides the changes required in the Northern Territory to deliver on our part of the recommendation. The amendments addressed in the bill are consistent with practices occurring in other jurisdictions, which are all undergoing similar legislative updates to their laws.

The bill will remove the term 'COAG' and replace it with the term 'First Ministers' Council', defined as a body consisting only of, or including the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers. The term 'Ministerial Council' will remain; however, it will be defined flexibly, as a body—however described—consisting of the minister of the Commonwealth and each state and territory who is responsible for the relevant matter. This is to ensure that if future governments rename these bodies the definition will still apply.

The bill seeks to amend a number of pieces of Northern Territory legislation, including:

- *Community Housing Providers (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2013*
- *Co-operatives (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2015*
- *Higher Education Act 2004*
- *Marine Act 1981*
- *National Health Funding Pool and Administration (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2012*
- *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1981*
- Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011.

The bill is a result of consultation with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, and state, territory and Commonwealth governments to broadly insert consistent terms into legislation both at the state and Commonwealth levels.

The bill ensures references to the federal relations architecture in Northern Territory legislation are clear and unambiguous and will be able to withstand any future changes to the naming of ministerial bodies when this may occur.

I am pleased to commend this bill to honourable members, and I table a copy of the explanatory statement.

Mr YAN (Namatjira): Mr Speaker, I move that the debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to; debate adjourned.

PETROLEUM ROYALTY BILL (Serial 82)

Ms LAWLER (Treasurer): Mr Speaker, I present a bill entitled Petroleum Royalty Bill 2023 (Serial 82).

Bill read a first time.