

[STATE ARMS]

New South Wales

# Protection of the Environment Administration Amendment (Environmental Education) Bill 1998

## Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

## Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991* as follows:

- (a) to establish the New South Wales Council on Environmental Education (the **Council**) and to provide for its membership and functions,
- (b) to dissolve the Environmental Education Committee,
- (c) to make other amendments of a minor or consequential nature.

The Bill also amends the *Freedom of Information (General) Regulation 1995* consequentially.

## Outline of provisions

**Clause 1** sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

**Clause 2** provides for the commencement of the proposed Act.

**Clause 3** is a formal provision giving effect to the amendments to the *Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991* set out in Schedule 1.

**Clause 4** is a formal provision giving effect to the consequential amendment of the *Freedom of Information (General) Regulation 1995* set out in Schedule 2.

## **Schedule 1 Amendment of Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991**

**Schedule 1 [8]** inserts a definition of *Council* for the purposes of the Act.

**Schedule 1 [9]** omits existing provisions relating to the Environmental Education Committee (which is to be dissolved by the proposed Act) and inserts a new Division 3 in Part 6 of the Act relating to the Council. The Division contains the following provisions:

- (a) proposed section 26 which establishes the Council,
- (b) proposed section 27 which provides for the functions of the Council which include:
  - (i) advising the Government on key issues, trends and research requirements relating to environmental education, and
  - (ii) co-ordinating the preparation, and monitoring and reporting on the implementation, of the Government's 3-year plans for environmental education,
- (c) proposed section 28 which provides for the membership of the Council.
- (d) proposed section 28A which makes it clear that the proposed Division does not affect the operation of the *Education Act 1990* or the *Technical and Further Education Commission Act 1990*.

**Schedule 1 [1], [7] and [10]–[15]** make consequential amendments.

**Schedule 1 [16]–[18]** make amendments of a savings or transitional nature. Those amendments contain a provision dissolving the Environmental Education Committee.

**Schedule 1 [2]–[6]** contain minor amendments consequent on the enactment of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

## **Schedule 2 Consequential amendment of Freedom of Information (General) Regulation 1995**

**Schedule 2** replaces the reference to the Environmental Education Committee in the Regulation with a reference to the Council.