

Explanatory note

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

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to expedite the notification of pollution incidents that cause or threaten material harm to the environment. At present, section 148 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* requires any such pollution incident to be notified to the appropriate regulatory authority as soon as practicable after the persons associated with the activity that has caused the incident become aware of the incident. Section 149 of that Act enables the regulations to prescribe the manner or form of notifying those pollution incidents. The regulations require those pollution incidents to be notified verbally by telephoning the EPA environment line, followed by notification in writing within 7 days of the incident.

The object of this Bill is to amend that Act so as to require the immediate notification of those pollution incidents.

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 on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 amends section 148 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* to give effect to the object set out above.