1. In January 2012, in response to primary industry calls for law reform on stock-related offending, the then Attorney-General approved the formation of a Stock Working Group to review provisions of the Criminal Code and other Acts relating to stock. The Chair of the working group was Mr John Jerrard QC, former Justice of the Queensland Court of Appeal, and the working group was made up of various stakeholders.
2. The Stock Working Group reported in March 2012 and made a variety of recommendations which are largely implemented through this Bill.
3. Subsequent to this report, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General conducted a review of the penalty levels for stock offences in the Criminal Code.
4. The Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill 2014 amends the Criminal Code to:
* make improved provision for the disposal of stock which have been seized by police in connection with a charge of a stock offence;
* rename the ‘Animal Valuers Tribunal’ as the ‘Animal Valuers Panel’ to better reflect the non-judicial nature of animal valuer experts;
* increase the minimum fine penalty amounts for certain stock offences; and
* convert the fine amounts for stock offences from dollar amounts to penalty units.
1. The Bill amends the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* to:
* permit a magistrate or judge to make a forced muster order for the retrieval of stray stock in circumstances where the landowner onto whose land the stock have strayed is withholding permission for the stock owner to enter and retrieve the stock; and
* enhance police search warrant powers with respect to investigations of stock offences.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill 2014 into the legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill 2014](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)