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Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Attn: Research Director

I write this submission to acknowledge my support for *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016*. I must say I was in disbelief that mining companies can get away with not ensuring they clean up their mess after they abandon a mining site even if that is because of bankruptcy. Any other Australian Company or individual would be risking imprisonment or extraordinary high fines for not doing so regardless of their circumstances.

Mining companies make enormous profits mining the mineral resources in the state of Queensland and as such have a duty of responsibility to the people of Queensland to ensure the land they destroy in that pursuit is restored. Restored so that it supports native vegetation and can be used for other purposes.

Coal seam gas operations and coal mining in general cause massive environmental damage. It is proven that our water reserves are put at great risk by mining operations. To leave these sites abandoned with no clean up responsibilities undertaken is to heighten the risk of pollution to our precious water ways. This is Queensland's future sustainability and prosperity these reckless mining companies are risking. Farming is put at risk, health of Queenslanders is put at risk, regional communities economic viability is put at risk and so is the tourist industry. No visitor will come to Queensland knowing that our pristine waterways are polluted from the left overs of mining operations gone bad. Some 15000 mines are now abandoned and how many more will be left this way if something isn't done and done now.

I support the polluter pays system and believe this legislation should have a retrospective element to it so past polluters do not get away with leaving their messes behind them. The fact is with coal mining facing such an uncertain future more mines are under a financial black cloud so the Government needs to act quickly.

I thank you for reading my submission and hope that the future of Queensland's environment will be protected by the passing of these amendments.

Yours sincerely

Dianne Turner