

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Re: Environmental Protection (chain of responsibility) amendment bill
Date: Wednesday, 30 March 2016 11:32:03 AM

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to supply a submission in support of the *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016*.

It is essential that companies who mine in Queensland be made responsible for cleaning up environmental impacts which result from their mining activities, rather than potentially leaving the responsibility to the taxpayer.

- I am concerned at the extent of abandoned mines and minerals processing facilities in Queensland.
- Evidence indicates that the development of underground coal gasification and the roll out of unconventional gas (including Coal Seam Gas and Shale Gas) over thousands of square kilometers of Queensland has the potential for huge environmental damage.
- Companies may have financial assurance or environmental insurance, but this is unlikely to cover the extent of the damage when things go wrong with mining and unconventional gas.
- Currently, many mining and unconventional gas companies are facing financial pressure and risk going into administration. Should this happen, it is essential that the clean-up costs do not devolve to the taxpayer.
- It is also essential for the legislation to mandate extending the responsibility to cleaning up environmental impacts to all mineral processing facilities in the State.
- In sum, I support the “polluter pays” principle where those that profit from exploiting the mineral resources which are owned by the people of Queensland leave their sites in a condition without residual environmental impacts.

Yours faithfully

Laurel Wilson (Queensland elector)

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