

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

30 March 2016

Submission for Queensland Chain of Responsibility Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing this submission because I support the proposed legislative amendments in the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016.

I am extremely concerned at the large number of mines and minerals processing facilities already scattered across the state that over the years, have been abandoned resulting in the cost of rehabilitation being passed onto the taxpayer. Early evidence shows 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.

Thus, there is an urgent need to hold companies to account in regards to cleaning up the environmental impacts given the industry's poor environmental records to date. I very much doubt these companies current financial assurances will cover the costs of reclamation, forget environmental damage! I hold Linc up as a prime example. How much does it cost to fix the 'don't dig here' problem?

I am not at all in favour of us taxpayers having to foot the clean-up bill. Especially when these companies avoid penalties by going into voluntary liquidation. It is a joke at the tax payers expense that has to stop. I support the 'polluter pays' principle. Let those that profit from exploiting the mineral resources foot the bills for all damages and reclamation.

I support the legislative changes being proposed which will mean that environmental responsibilities cannot be avoided even when companies are in financial difficulty. I fully support that the Bill proposes amendments to ensure a parent company or company director can be held responsible for taking action to prevent or clean-up environmental harm, or to enable relevant costs to recovered from them.

The 'monies' these people earn are obscene and would be better spend improving our planet instead of raping it.


Lastly and most importantly, more power for the regulator, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. I'm sure we can all agree that self regulation doesn't work very well in this 'profit at all cost' world we are forced to live in. It is about time regulators were given the resources to do their job properly. A FLIRS (Forward Looking Infr-Red Spectrum) camera would be a good start. Here is a link so you can see what our regulators miss:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzMSUufp5ek> - A Flirs Eye View of Coal Seam Gas Venting – QLD June 2015

The mining industry has already declared their opposition to these changes. These urgent and necessary amendments are an important step in the battle to hold the mining industry to account.

Thank you for your time

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