

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016
Date: Wednesday, 30 March 2016 3:06:53 PM
Attachments: [NQCC logo - blue\[21\].png](#)
Importance: Low

To whom it may concern

As Coordinator of NQCC, I am writing on behalf of the organisation and its members in support of the proposed legislative amendments proposed in the *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016*.

As an environmental organisation based in Townsville, we are concerned about the future rehabilitation of Yabulu and aware of the risks associated with its physical and financial management. This is especially so given the location of the refinery and its tailing ponds just metres from the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

We are similarly concerned about the 15,000 or so abandoned mines and minerals processing facilities across the state and the harm that they can do to our environment.

It is unconscionable that owners of these mines have been allowed to walk away from the responsibilities they had (often contractual) to rehabilitate their sites after having used them to make large private profits.

We are similarly aware of and concerned about the fact that bonds posted to cover rehabilitation works are often totally inadequate.

These circumstances make the *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016* both necessary and urgent.

Overall, NQCC supports 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.

We would extend that principle to the requirement that producers of carbon pollution be charged for the carbon emissions for which they are responsible, with the income earned be used to support renewable energy projects and/or returned to the consumer.

Finally, we entreat you to ensure that the amendments are sufficiently robust to prevent lengthy and expensive challenges from well-heeled and litigious private companies and those responsible for them.

Yours faithfully

Wendy Tubman

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The economy is a totally owned subsidiary of the environment – not the other way around.

(Gaylord Nelson)