

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Re: "Chain of Responsibility" amendments into the Environment Protection Act 1994  
**Date:** Wednesday, 30 March 2016 8:49:27 PM

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Dear Agriculture and Environment Committee,

Re: "Chain of Responsibility" amendments into the Environment Protection Act 1994

I am writing to you to say that I support the legislative amendments proposed in the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016. I have seen first hand the mess that an abandoned mine site leaves in the desert. As a Queensland taxpayer I am very concerned with the extent of abandoned or 'temporarily out of use' mine sites and mineral processing plants across the rural landscape of Queensland.

I wish to bring to your attention that 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.

Knowing how poorly the track record is for mining companies across the world, I am concerned that financial assurance or environmental insurance by mining companies is unlikely to cover the extent of the damage when things go wrong with mining and unconventional gas.

I wish to bring to your attention that right now many mining and unconventional gas companies are facing financial pressure and risk going into administration. These circumstances make the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016 necessary and urgent. There is a urgent need to hold companies to account in regards to cleaning up the environmental impacts given the industry's poor environmental record.

Please ensure that the amended legislation mandates extending the responsibility to cleaning up environmental impacts to all mineral processing facilities in the State, and finally, I fully 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.

In excess of 15,000 abandoned sites are littered across Australia.

Here are photos I took in one such site in 2009: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsjF6nWLx>

Yours sincerely,

Steve Swayne

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