

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Bill 2016 - submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 31 March 2016 2:12:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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## **Submission on Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Bill 2016**

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Bill 2016 (Chain of Responsibility Bill). Apologies for the brevity of this submission but I am new in my role and have only just found the time to become properly briefed on the Bill's contents.

This Bill is essential to help ensure that those who profit from, or are responsible for, the operation of activities which pose a risk of environmental harm are able to be held responsible for the financial implications of remediating or avoiding that environmental harm. This issue has been long standing, with 15,000 abandoned mines currently existing in Queensland. The need for this Bill has increased in recent years through the downturn of the mining sector and the consequent number of operators which have gone into administration and abandoned their sites, leaving high risks of environmental harm.

The Bill helps to ensure that companies and directors take their environmental obligations seriously and cannot bypass these obligations through selling or trading out of their activities prior to fulfilling their responsibilities.

Queenslander's, and our environment, deserve legislation which empowers DEHP to ensure that those who profit from and are responsible for exploiting our environment are the ones who remain responsible for avoiding or remediating environmental harm caused by these operations.

The Cairns and Far North Environment Centre (CAFNEC) strongly supports this Bill and recommend that the Committee support all of the amendments provided for in it.

Warm regards,

Areti Metuamate

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