

31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016

Christine Bennett

Agriculture and Environment Committee

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Dear Committee

**RE: SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF: Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill  
2016**

Please accept my submission in strong support of the proposed legislative amendments proposed in the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016. I have always considered that the fossil fuel industry is causing colossal environmental damage, without taking due care or responsibility. As far as Coal Seam Gas (CSG) is concerned, I am totally opposed to CSG mining in Australia and regard it as the single, most damaging industry in Australia's history with irreversible toxic effects to our soil and water.

**The following statements substantiate this submission:**

- 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.
- Legislation needs to mandate extending the responsibility to cleaning up environmental impacts to all mineral processing facilities in the State.
- 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.
- Early 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 financial assurance or environmental insurance is unlikely to cover the extent of the damage when things go wrong with mining and unconventional gas.
- 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.

As a Queensland constituent, I am concerned at the extent of abandoned mines and minerals processing facilities that number in excess of 15,000 sites across the states. Therefore, I urge that these amendments be incorporated into the Environment Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Christine Bennett

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