

Conondale Range Conservation Inc.

PO Box 150 Kenilworth 4574

... still watching over the Conondales and Mary Valley.

Formed in 1976 to press for a significant National Park in the Conondales, Conondale Range Conservation Inc. (formerly known as the Conondale Range Committee) has worked with successive state governments on the Conondales Consultative Process, the Agricola Mine Rehabilitation Process, the South-east Queensland Forest Agreement and the recent establishment of the Conondales Great Walk.

In 2004, we published "Walking on the Wilder Side .. in the Conondales" and our work has been recognised with two Sunshine Coast Environment Council awards.

Submission in relation to the proposed amendments in the Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016.

The above organisation is strongly in favour of the proposed amendments. This position comes not only out of our concern about the large number of abandoned mines across the state but from our own personal experience of the (government- funded) rehabilitation of the Agricola mine site in the Conondale Ranges.

When Astrik Resources NL declared bankrupt and unable to carry out any rehabilitation work, it took our committee several years to get a commitment from the state government that such rehabilitation would be carried out, eventually costing in excess of a million dollars.

The only bond that the government held in relation to the mine was some \$20 000 in case of damage to forestry roads.

Plainly taxpayers cannot be expected to pay for rehabilitation should mining companies declare bankrupt after the mine's revenue earning peak passes.

The Agricola gold mine was a relatively small one. Its rehabilitation was important as it lay in an environmentally sensitive area.

We are concerned about the eventual rehabilitation of coal and gas mines that cover large areas across the state. Following our experience with Agricola, we are concerned about the impact of abandoned mines on water quality.

As well as the responsibility for rehabilitating mine sites, we support extending this to cover cleaning up mineral processing facilities. We view with alarm recent developments at Clive Palmer's nickel processing facility, hoping there will be an operating company with sufficient resources to meet its environmental responsibility.



Ian Mackay
(President)



March 31 2016