

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Support "Chain of Responsibility" Amendment
Date: Thursday, 31 March 2016 10:54:20 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to share my support for Dr. Steven Miles' proposed amendments to the Environment Protection Act 1994, specifically the *Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2016*. As an Australian citizen, I am extremely concerned about the environmental impact of mines and mineral processing facilities (abandoned or otherwise) across our country. Having profited from the sale of the materials (minerals and gasses) they mine, companies should also bear the financial responsibility for the correction of any negative environmental impact resulting from their actions and decisions. The State and Federal governments should not bear the burden of cleanups nor let company directors walk away from the impact of their decisions.

I am extremely concerned that companies are able to abandon mines and processing facilities without returning those areas to their original condition. Evidence has already shown that Coal Seam and Shale Gas extraction has an enormous potential for environmental (air, surface and water) damage and there are few, if any, laws in place to put the clean-up responsibility onto the companies drilling the wells and mines. The possibility that these mining companies could be financially unstable means that legislation needs to be put into place immediately to place the burden of clean-ups and safe shut-downs onto the company shareholders and directors. The mining and gas industry members should be held accountable for their decisions and actions, as other industries have.

In short, I support the concept that "the polluter pays" when it comes to any commercial enterprise. Taxpayers should not have to bear any financial responsibility for environmental clean-ups, especially when they did not share in any profits from these activities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kind regards,

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