

We support the proposed legislative amendments proposed in the *Environmental Protection (Chain of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2016*.

In relation to the Ben Lomond Uranium mine situated at Herveys Range, some 40 Km west of the Townsville CBD, the water data for the last five years (at least) shows highly and consistently elevated levels over the limits for ARSENIC, LEAD and ALPHA RADIATION. Although the EA requires the mine owners to report to the DEHP if any limits are exceeded, the data clearly shows that this has either not occurred or the DEHP has taken no action, as there has only recently commenced an investigation in conjunction with the mine owners to determine the cause and source of the contamination. Because of the extreme toxicity of these contaminants and their proximity to drinking water supplies it is imperative that the mine owners comply with the environmental authority with which they have been entrusted.

Regarding cleaning up the environmental impacts, given the industry's poor environmental record, there is an urgent need to hold companies to account.

We support the “polluter pays” principle where those who profit from exploiting the mineral resources or are given the environmental authority over sites which are owned by the people of Queensland, leave their sites in a condition without residual environmental impacts.

David Sewell Spokesperson for CAMBL Citizens
Against Mining Ben Lomond

