

**From:** [Jonathan Peter](#)  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Underground water management bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, 27 September 2016 12:31:25 PM

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## Submission on the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and other Legislation Bill 2016

Dear People,

We are encouraged that this Bill has been brought forward as a beginning to overturn the excesses allowed under the Newman government's WROLAA plan. It is clear that the unlimited "Statutory Rights" being granted by the previous government to ONLY mining operations was going to be damaging to the environment and farmer's water supplies. It is good that this new Bill will make water impacts assessable during the EIS stage of mining applications, and the 'associated water license' is also good. But not good enough. As has been demonstrated in recent court cases concerning the approval processes for the Adani and GVK Hancock coal mines, our environmental laws are NOT capable of protecting our environmental assets and a safer future for us all in the face of accelerating Global warming. We object to the present government continuing to grant Statutory Rights for mining companies, even with these improved clauses above. As every other Australian and business must pay for their water licenses, under the Water Act 2000 (QLD), and their water use is supposed to be monitored; the idea that mining companies should be exempt from these Licencing procedures and costs is offensive and completely unjust.

The most significant problem with this new Bill, as we have discovered about the EPBC, is that it does not include the idea of Ecological Sustainable Development and does not recognise the importance of the Precautionary Principal. We are confronted with the undeniable increases of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> pollution and rising global temperatures with consequences that will be far reaching and increasingly damaging to our economies. If we do not begin to seriously restrict our fossil fuel consumption and look for ways to extract CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and the oceans, and find other ways to store this surplus CO<sub>2</sub>, we will be condemning living descendants to serious dislocations of their lives.

So. We are asking you to increase the restrictions and environmental protections in any way you can in this proposed new Bill. We understand that the history of business-as-usual has incredible inertia, but it is time for all our representatives to act for the greater good, and put our mutual futures before short term economic benefit to vested interests.

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Thank you for seriously considering these issues and taking the long term view of improving these regulations.

Respectfully,  
Jonathan Peter

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