

**From:** [Paul](#)  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Re Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill  
**Date:** Sunday, 2 October 2016 9:01:38 AM

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## Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

Individual Submission by Paul Jukes, [REDACTED]

As a farmer and agricultural engineer I closely follow government decisions which may impact positively or negatively on my industries access to natural resources. I was involved significantly in the implementation of the water act 2000 through the water resource planning processes and their subsequent implementation through the rops. The passing of the legislation amendments which allowed unprecedented and unlicensed access to ground water by the resources sector flew in the face of all that was achieved through these catchment scale planning processes. The extensive and comprehensive modelling, scientific benchmarking and community consultation processes set out to clearly identify the resource, it's competing uses and to draw a line in the sand so that entitlement performance could be guaranteed including environmental outcomes. This all went out the door when a significant but unquantified water uses was allowed to extract from the limited resource. Any rational mind would see that this would of course impact all other water users. It is for these reasons that -:

- I support the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 but it should be tougher in relation to ecological sustainability. If the principals of Ecologically Sustainable development are not followed then future generations may suffer; biological diversity may decrease; and, ecosystems may be disrupted.
- Mining water licences must consider Ecologically Sustainable Development and the Precautionary Principle.
- Currently most mines are required to obtain a water licence under the Water Act 2000 (Qld) for taking or interfering with associated groundwater (water required to be taken or interfered to access the resource) and non-associated groundwater (all other groundwater).
- People affected by the granting of a licence can challenge the decision in the Land Court.
- Water impacts should be assessed during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) stage of an application for an Environmental Authority (EA) for a mine.
- An “associated water licence” must be obtained for projects that are already in the system but were expecting to not need a licence.
- Farmers and other businesses applying for water licences must adhere to the precautionary principle and the principles of ESD. Mining projects have far greater impacts on water.