

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Submission to the EP(uwm)OLA Bill
Date: Tuesday, 4 October 2016 12:20:37 PM
Attachments: [EP\(uwm\)OLA Subm_gp.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Please find below and attached my Submission to this Bill which is due on 7th October.

**SUBMISSION Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and
Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

An Act to amend the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*, the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, the *Water Act 2000* and the *Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* for particular purposes

It is worth looking at the *Environment Protection Act 1994*: ‘The object of this Act is to protect Queensland’s environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends (*ecologically sustainable development*).’

My main point in this Submission is to ask whether the criteria for a decision to grant water to any industry is based on ecologically sustainable development principles (ESD)?

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ESD is a key benchmark for all industries: farming, grazing, agriculture, CSG and all mining operations. The long-term health of the Great Artesian Basin and other aquifers and waters must be the overriding purpose of this legislation. As pointed out at the Hearing, ecological sustainability is only guaranteed if the quantity and quality of water is monitored against predetermined levels.

Additionally, the legislation must require Mining Companies to pay for expert advice on impacts on ground water. A Code of Conduct is necessary for negotiations between landowners and miners. Impacts of several resource operations must be considered cumulatively. Operations which have already received the ‘statutory right’ to water now have to be reviewed by this new legislation.

After studying Labor’s *Water Legislation Amendment Bill (2015)* and attending the Hearing, I saw that more reform was needed. This was the strongly expressed view of most speakers at the Hearing in February 2016, particularly people with experience in Queensland water planning and allocation.

If the EP(uwm)OLA legally enforces principles of ecologically sustainable development, it achieves its primary aim of effective environmental assessment of underground water extraction by resource projects.

Thanks for the opportunity to make a Submission. Please reply to say you've received this, thanks.

Gillian Pechey

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