

**Submission to the -
Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing with genuine concerns relating to the proposed Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 (Qld) that was introduced into state parliament on the 13th September 2016.

The New Acland stage 3 approvals process has been in place since 2007 and still a decision has not been forthcoming from the Queensland Government. A growing concern in my community is that this proposed legislation will force this project back to the courts and in effect cause the loss of jobs on a large scale decimating the local community - how can this be just justified when there are already 780 odd families and suppliers waiting for a decision and basically keeping their lives on hold? I do agree that each proponent / opponent deserves their day in court, but to now threaten the project with legislation that is not flexible to existing approvals is in my own opinion unacceptable. Changing the goal posts is not welcomed in this country by sensible and honourable people (citizens or politicians) and nor should it be. The projects land court component has completed with two weeks of discussions around groundwater and its potential impacts, as well as New Hope providing all the information on groundwater impacts through the EIS/AEIS process.

I feel that it is only fair and reasonable that all projects in the latter stages of their respective approval processes be given as a minimum better transitional arrangements related to the proposed legislation, particularly New Acland Mine which has done nothing short of providing a first rate operation to the state and local community. This would have a massively positive impact on my community which is relying on New Acland stage 3 to proceed.

Any further delay caused by the proposed legislation would result in my termination of employment and most probably my ability to find other work related to my skills in the district. My children and family are settled on the Darling Downs, any delay would impact on them of course.

Overall any decision made by parliament to hold projects that are in the latter stages of the approval process to the proposed legislation would have an overwhelmingly negative impact on the whole community and citizens, which I think is an unacceptable action by a State government.

Yours Sincerely



Wayne Pengelly

[Redacted address block]