

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: "Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016"
Date: Friday, 7 October 2016 10:18:26 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am an employee of New Hope Group and am writing this submission as I am concerned about the impacts that the proposed underground water management legislation will have on NAC03 approval.

Firstly I would like to state that I think it is absolutely ridiculous that after 10 years, three environmental impact studies and a 31 week land court process that the goal posts would be changed yet again. Honestly I think New Hope has shown great resilience to the hurdles set down by four different state governments and think it is quite insulting that this legislation would be introduced right at the end of such an arduous process to get stage 3 approved.

Why should a project that has already (and so recently) been through the land court process be subject to that again? To do so would only duplicate what has been discussed at land court recently, to the expensive of both New hope and the state. Surely transitional amendments or exemptions can be made for a project in the latter stages of the approval process?

I am concerned that if no transitional amendments or exemptions were to be made, that NAC03 approvals would be delayed yet again with more groundwater baseline assessments to be made and the potential to go back to land court. This will put even more pressure on New Hope's ability to maintain continuity of mining operations and could even spell the end for NAC who's current operation is set to end early 2018. Hundreds of employees jobs are on the line here including my own and I would hope that the government would take this into consideration when introducing this legislation.

Regards,

Andrew Basson
Exploration Geologist

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<http://www.newhopegroup.com.au/files/images/Newsig0916.png>



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