

Research Director  
Agriculture and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
[aec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:aec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

6<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Sir,

**RE: Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation  
Amendment Bill 2016"**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to make a submission proposing amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Bill 2016* (the Bill)

While I am in support of the intent of the Bill and the need to have a strong regulatory framework to ensure sustainable environmental outcomes are achieved I cannot support the transitional arrangements for resource projects that are in the very late stages of approvals.

The need to now apply for an "associated water licence" by supplying a "baseline bore assessment", that could take up to 24 months to complete, for a project in the late stages of approval with less than 12 weeks notice is unreasonable. This costs project owner's time and money.

As has been readily reported, the New Acland Mine has just been through Land Court to defend its application for an extension to its Mining Lease. At least 2 weeks of those Land Court hearings were dedicated to the impacts that the mine extension would have on groundwater. What purpose does it serve to have another process put in place where this mine may be subject to the same objections and Land Court process to discuss the same groundwater impacts? This is a waste of taxpayer money.

I would like to propose that the Bill is amended as follows:

*A person other than the applicant is not entitled to seek internal review or appeal the decision to grant the associated water licence if the project has already been referred to the Land Court pursuant to s.185 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.*

Also of concern is the lack of consultation with the key stakeholders prior to the Bill being released, the truncated review timeframe and considering the impact the Bill will have on stakeholders, the very short period before the Bill becoming effective.

Yours Sincerely,

Ben Armitage

