

Research Director
Agriculture and Environment Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

06 October, 2016

Dear Sir,

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

I write with reference to the introduction of the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

I am concerned that the New Acland Mine, almost at the end of their approvals process, is now required to apply for an associated water licence. I believe this requirement will have a significant impact on the project.

I have read the New Hope Group have spent a significant amount of time during 2016 in Land Court to defend its application to extend the life of the current mine. I also understand that over two weeks of court proceedings were set aside to discuss the impact of the mine's expansion on groundwater.

I fear the introduction of this legislation, as it stands, will provide yet another platform for a small number of objectors to oppose the mine's expansion and will necessitate another round of lengthy and costly legal debate.

The Darling Downs *needs* companies like New Hope Group to continue to invest in the local community to secure and increase jobs and bolster the economy. I fear that at this late stage, any more delays to the project will result in significant job losses, a decline in the local economy and a reduction of royalties paid to the State.

May I suggest the legislation is amended to exempt companies, such New Hope Group, who have been through Land Court as part of their approvals process from the requirement to obtain a separate water licence.

As a person who understands the importance of mining to local communities supported by the mining industry, I am also concerned to read that the State Government did not consult with the sector in regard to the introduction of this legislation, especially given the impact the legislation will have on the industry and the communities in which it operates.

Yours Sincerely,



David Drakeley

